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Saipan Tribune

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Completion of Saipan airport runway see 4-month delay. PAGE 3
'Soup kitchen's clients almost double since May opening' PAGE 5

12 'problematic' sections in budget

» Legislature exempts self from work hour cuts with increased funding

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos marked his 62nd birthday yesterday by, among other things, reluctantly signing into law a $102-million budget bill for fiscal year 2012 that is riddled with 12 "problematic provisions," which the House and the Senate failed to address in a rush to prevent another partial government shutdown by Oct. 1.

While the atmosphere in the governor's conference room during the signing was jovial, the acting governor's five-page message to the Legislature accompanying the 38-page budget law was pointed.

Inos said the administration was "forced" to approve a bill that "could have been drafted with more care, precision, and fairness" had lawmakers not waited for the "11th hour" to tackle the budget.

It took the Legislature six months to pass the "problematic" budget bill.

"Still, the administration is relieved that our government employees will not have to endure the angst experienced last year during the shutdown period," Inos said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who is expected to return for work today after a personal China trip for over a week, submitted his budget proposal to the Legislature on April 1.

While a partial government shutdown has been averted, hundreds of government employees will continue to receive a 16-hour cut biweekly and unpaid holidays under the new budget, which will

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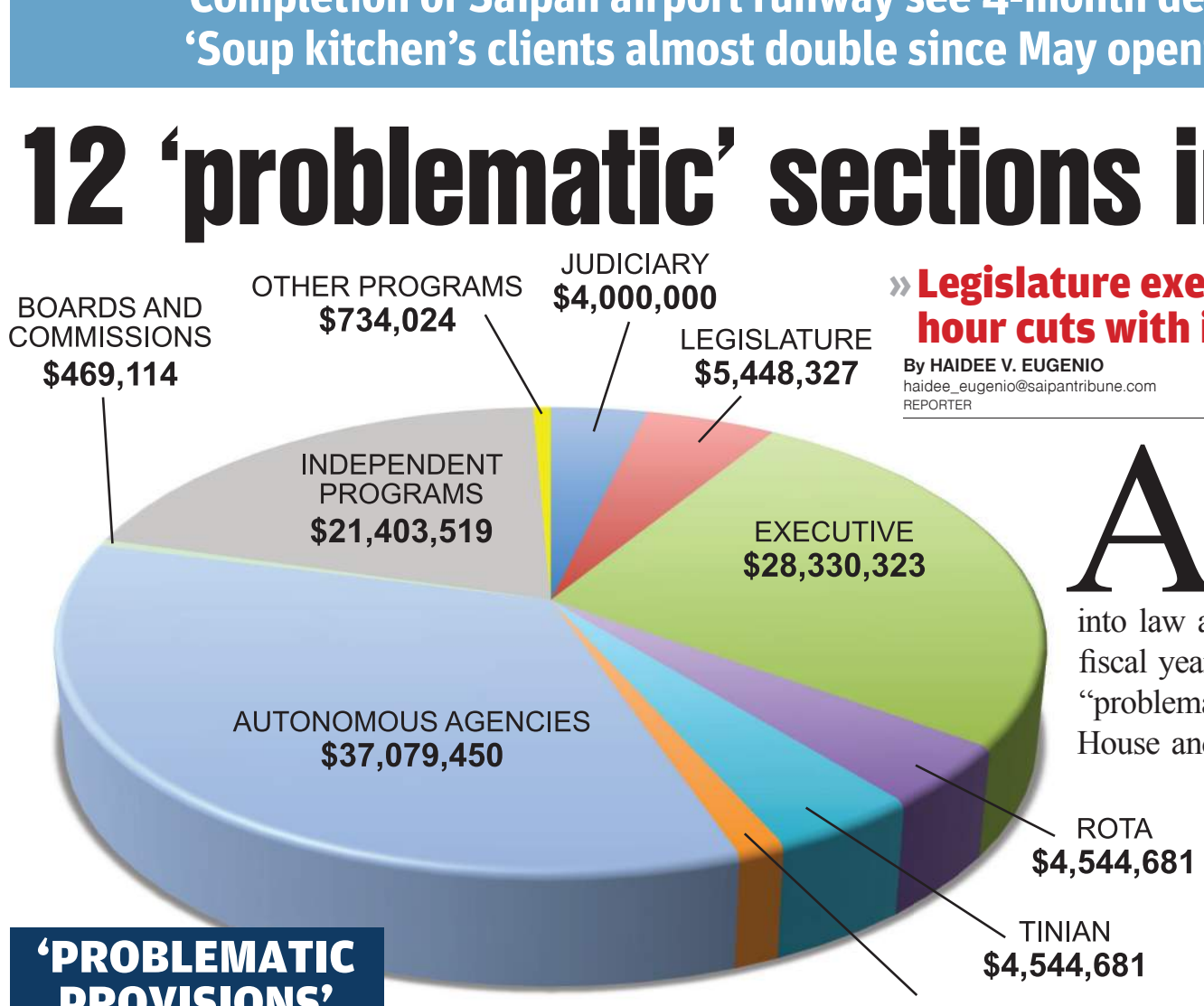

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Graphic: Ross Garcia

'PROBLEMATIC PROVISIONS'

The 12 provisions in the newly enacted budget for fiscal year 2012 that acting governor Eloy Inos identified as "problematic" are:

1 SUSPENSION OF MANDATED FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR. Public corporations or autonomous agencies are expected to timely remit their 1 percent OPA contribution to Finance, while business units funded by legislative appropriation must cut their funding level by 1 percent from that listed in this budget authority "to reflect their exemption from remitting 1 percent of their budget to OPA as the Legislature has already appropriated those funds to other business units in this measure."

2 RESTRICTION ON FUNDING CUTS FOR THE LEGISLATURE AND THE JUDICIARY. Section 501(c) requires legislative approval in the event that the general fund experi-

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, right, stands in front of Office of the Governor staff and visitors who sang a birthday song for him before treating him to lunch in the governor's conference room, minutes after he signed into law yesterday a $102 million budget bill. Inos turned 62 yesterday.

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 the lowest and 5 the highest, rate the clarity with which the USCIS outreach team explained the various provisions of the CW rule:

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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Guam Premiere
An ex-Saipan resident premieres his first film at the 2011 Guam International Film Festival.

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Price Rollback
Soaring gasoline prices are in the rearview mirror.

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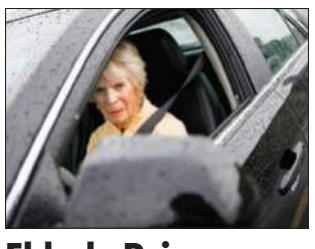

Elderly Drivers
Elderly drivers are reducing their involvement in fatal and nonfatal crashes.

OVERDRIVE...Page 18

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Local

Rota airport named after former lt. governor Manglona

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed not only a $102-million budget bill yesterday, but three other measures as well that included a bill renaming the Rota International Airport the "Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport."

Inos said that renaming the airport after former lieutenant governor Benjamin Taisacan Manglona is "befitting a person who has dedicated over 50 years of his life to public service in various capacities to improve the lives of our citizens and residents."

"His dedication and perseverance throughout the years had led to developments and advancements in many areas of the Commonwealth. I am pleased that the Legislature found it befitting to rename the Rota International Airport in honor of a worthy leader," Inos said.

Senate Bill 17-65, authored by Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), is now Public Law 17-53.

Inos signed the bill in the presence of the former lieutenant governor, his family, and other government officials and lawmakers.

Manglona not only served as a lieutenant governor, but also as a representative, senator and a mayor, among other things. He also served as first vice president of the First Constitutional Convention of 1976.

MVA, Rota money

Inos also signed before Cabinet members and lawmakers House Bill 17-209, Senate Substitute 1 into P.L. 17-54 yesterday morning. This law changes the composition of the Marianas Visitors Authority's board of directors.

The bill, introduced by House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), allows one non-U.S. citizen to be appointed by the governor to serve on the MVA board.

The acting governor also signed House Local Bill 17-55, Substitute 1, into Rota Local Law 17-16.

This measure, introduced by Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), appropriates $45,000 collected from poker license fees, to go toward patients, scholars, and other programs and activities on Rota.

Of the $45,000 appropriated, $8,100 will go to eight terminally ill and dialysis patients at $450 each for September, October and November 2011; $10,800 for nine terminally ill and dialysis patients at $300 each for September, October and November 2011; $2,250 for the Rota Municipal Scholarship Foundation; and $2,250 for compensation of affected employees under PL 7-31 and RLL 17-2.

The others will be appropriated as follows: $1,000 to the Rota Liaison Office for the payment of Microl Toyota car rental; $5,000 to SEAS Inc. for payment of the nursing services at Rota Health Center; $1,000 to National Car Rental for medical referral purposes; $1,000 to Pacific Biomedical Services; $588.56 to Modern Laboratory for laboratory services; and $1,500 to Diagnostic Laboratory for lab services.

The rest will be for: $2,500 to the Rota Municipal Council to repair the tractor mower; $1,500 to Paradise Hotel for room rental; $2,250 to the Mayor of Rota for fuel expenses of $500 each for the Department of Public Works, Department of Lands and Natural Resources and Department of Public Safety, and $750 for Rota Health Center; $500 to the Soil and Water Conservation District; and $4,761.44 for Bisita Luta activities.

Judge amends ruling again in '97 building lease dispute

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman has amended again his order that found the CNMI government liable to pay businessman Joaquin M. Manglona for breaching a building lease in 1997.

In his order issued Thursday last week, Wiseman granted Manglona's motion to amend the court's findings and ruled that the legal rate of 9 percent per annum in post-judgment interest will accrue in favor of Manglona.

The amendment to his prior order, Wiseman said, should reflect that the date of judgment used to calculate pre-judgment and post-judgment interests is April 12, 2004.

Wiseman said the original principal judgment amount is $1,826,838, and post-judgment interest will be awarded at a rate of 9 percent per year on the original principal amount beginning April 12, 2004.

Wiseman ordered Manglona to prepare a proposed judgment consistent with his order.

In his motion, Manglona, through counsel Douglas F. Cushnie, challenged Wiseman's decision to deny post-judgment interest.

The businessman also argued that post-judgment interest should be awarded based on an exception to the general rule that interest cannot accrue on a judgment against the government.

In granting the motion, Wiseman said the exception allows for interest to accrue against the government if stipulated by contract. The CNMI Supreme Court had found that the lease between the parties so stipulated.

Wiseman said the Supreme Court had determined in its review of the case that there was a valid lease between the parties stating, "here, interest was stipulated for by the lease…"

Wiseman said the Supreme Court has thus determined that the lease is valid and provides for interest at the legal rate.

In June 2011, Wiseman ruled that the government is liable to pay Manglona $4.1 million. This order amended his prior order that awarded the plaintiff $2,814,438.56. The judge added $1,316,481.22 in post-judgment interest as of Nov. 10, 2010. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

2011 Luta Annual Fishing Derby
Oct. 6-7, 2011

On the heels of the recently concluded **Rota Cliff Fishing Tournament**, the Friendly Island is welcoming all fishermen for another weekend of highly anticipated angling with the **2011 Luta Fishing Derby** on Oct. 6-7, 2011.

Organized by the **Rota Mayor's Office** and R**ota Municipal Council**, the **2011 Luta Fishing Derby** aims to "catch the biggest one."

A grand prize of $10,000 will be given by sponsor Ambros Inc. for the largest marlin 500 lbs. or heavier. Additional cash prizes will be awarded for the top three fish in the categories of Bill Fish (Marlin), Wahoo, Yellow Fin, and Bonita Tuna. Participants are entitled to one prize per category only. Boats must register at the official weigh station at the West Dock Marina in order for the catch to qualify.

Registration fee is $100. Competitors must have a minimum two people per boat; each additional crew member will be $25.

Participants from Guam and Saipan may launch from their respective islands after clearance by derby officials. For a complete set of competition rules, an application, or more information, contact the Rota Municipal Council at 670.532.4046 or the Rota Mayor's Office at 670.532.9451.

So far this fiscal year, Rota has received over 4,500 visitors, largely from Japan.

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PATA CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF BUILDING RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

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Completion of Saipan airport's main runway see 4-month delay

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The completion date of the main runway at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport has been pushed back to a later date after the last-minute discovery of deep cracks on the runway.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* the project's completion date will now be in about three to four months or around February 2012.

"We're hoping to complete this major project by January or February 2012. The delay was result of the additional problems that were not addressed by the original design. CPA is now working to address all these concerns and is in the process of rectifying the problems," he said.

Because the original runway was completed some six years ago, deep cracks have already occurred. As remedy, Deleon Guerrero said that CPA had to ask the Federal Aviation Administration to allow it to modify the specific materials that will be used to remove the cracks. CPA also needs to modify or re-design the project to resolve the latest findings.

Deleon Guerrero said the FAA has already approved the additional funding for the project as well as the new timeline for its completion.

The rehabilitation of the airport's main runway, called Runway 7/25, has been in the CPA books for many years. The project officially kicked off in 2009 but construction did not start on schedule due to some delays in the processing of requirements.

The contract was then amended, with the construction period shortened from 14 months to just eight months, with the slated completion in September this year for its formal opening in October.

Deleon Guerrero said the project's current cost of $19 million may increase a bit due to the additional work but he's optimistic that this may be the last change order on the contract.

The project's contractor is Guam Pacific Power Corp. Inc.

The rehabilitation work is fully funded by the FAA and includes milling of existing runway, taxiway, blast pad and shoulder pavements, asphalt concrete overlay, and other works.

Deleon Guerrero said the delay in the project's completion has already been conveyed to stakeholders who, he said, understand and support CPA's move to ensure the safety of all airlines and passengers.

Sentencing of retired cop in fruit bat case set today

Adrian Atalig Mendiola, the retired police lieutenant who was convicted of poaching Mariana fruit bats on Rota in 2008, will be sentenced today in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

The District Court set Mendiola's sentencing at 9am.

Attorney Ramon Quichocho is counsel for Mendiola. Assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler prosecuted the case.

The original sentencing date was Aug. 16, 2011.

In May 2011, a jury found Mendiola guilty of unlawful possession of a threatened wildlife but not guilty of unlawful receipt or acquisition of a threatened wildlife.

Unlawful possession of threatened wildlife carries a maximum penalty of six months in prison and a $25,000 fine.

Mendiola, through counsel, moved for acquittal or a new trial. Quichocho argued that the case requires a new trial because the record is devoid of any evidence to show that the bats found in the freezer were of the subspecies *Pteropus* were indeed the federally protected *Pteropus mariannus mariannus*.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge John Houston denied Mendiola's motions in July 2011.

The court dismissed without prejudice the charges against Mendiola's co-defendants Albert Taitano and David Santos following the U.S. government's motion. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DEQ brigade sets Saturday cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality's monthly cleanup brigade is picking up trash at Marine Beach in Kagman on Saturday, Oct. 1, 2011.

If you would like to volunteer, meet the DEQ representative at 8am at the beach parking lot. Volunteers will split into groups and clean north, south, east, and west until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a green brigade T-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(PR)***

Veterans outreach in September

Tina San Agustin, the Department of Veterans Affairs' legal administrative specialist for Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, will be on Saipan on Sept. 28-29, 2011, for a Veterans Outreach on veterans' federal benefits. She will be also entertaining questions and assisting veterans and all concerned with their claims.

Agustin will be stationed at the Military and Veterans Affairs Office on Capitol Hill, building 1364, Saipan, from 8:30am to 4:30pm on both days.

For those who wish to make an appointment or for further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. ***(PR)***

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Froilan says budget law is unconstitutional

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday that the budget bill the Legislature passed on Friday and signed by acting governor Eloy S. Inos yesterday is "not a balanced one and is therefore unconstitutional."

Tenorio was the only lawmaker who voted against the budget bill on Friday.

In a news briefing at Bistro Marianas in Susupe yesterday, Tenorio said he only cited the equal $138,000 leadership account for the House and Senate as his main reason for objecting to the budget bill during Friday's session but there's more to it.

Tenorio

The former speaker and governor said the government will not collect its projected $120.679 million.

Under the budget law, $102 million of this amount is available for appropriation.

Tenorio said when the budget was formulated, it was long before the March 11 disasters in Japan struck so the impact of that event on tourism activities was not yet factored in. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial submitted his budget package to the Legislature on April 1.

"There's no way we can collect $120 million. Therefore, it's not a balanced budget and therefore it is unconstitutional," he told reporters.

Tenorio reiterated that only through legalization of casino gambling on Saipan will the CNMI be able to meet and exceed the $120 million projected revenue. He said a Saipan casino industry will generate an additional $100 million in revenue that will boost the economy.

Tenorio said there are four groups of Japanese and Chinese investors waiting for the casino legislation to be signed.

"Once the casino bill becomes law, I'm also going to introduce a bill to earmark 100 percent of the business gross revenue tax from casino operations to the Retirement Fund until all unfunded liabilities are paid and until all the government's debts are paid," he said.

PROVISIONS

From Page 1

ences a budget shortfall requiring reduction of resources. Inos said this restriction is inherently inequitable and will force the Finance secretary to violate her constitutional duties.

3 HIRING RESTRICTIONS. Inos said that Section 602(b) is open to abuse as a Request for Personnel Action, or RFPA, could be submitted on the 90th day by any department or agency without having identified a person to fill such position to avoid position elimination. Inos said the correct procedure is through the use of the Notice of Personnel Action initiated by the Office of Personnel Management as this indicates that applicants have applied, an eligibility list was provided, qualified candidates were interviewed, and the best candidate was chosen.

4 PAY FOR LEGAL HOLIDAYS. Section 605 allows pay for legal holidays should sufficient funds be available in the respective business unit's account or should the governor declare a specific holiday a paid one. Inos said government employees availing of these privileges must apply for annual leave on such days.

5 INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE LEGISLATURE. The House initially passed a budget with the same level of funding as submitted by the governor, while the Senate lowered it by $3 million. The conference committee ultimately increased it by 87 percent more than the Senate version or 29 percent more than the governor's submission.

Inos said the total increase for the Legislature of 29 percent amounts to $1.224 million of which $429,000 was allocated to the Legislative Bureau, reflecting a 42-percent increase for the LB.

"This increase exempts the Legislative Bureau from any austerity work hours that will be borne by other government departments and agencies," he said.

6 SCHOLARSHIP. Section 401(b) allots disbursement of student financial assistance funds in the first and second quarter of the fiscal year to coincide with the fall and spring semester of the school year. This could present problems in terms of cash flow if disbursements were to be made in the first months of each quarter.

7 INCREASED FUNDING FOR ROTA. Section 705 increases funding for the Mayor of Rota by $50,000; for the Municipal Council of Rota by $10,000; and Rota-Department of Public Safety by $10,000.

Inos said that "no discussion or justification was provided for such increase" for Rota's funding.

8 INCREASED FUNDING FOR TINIAN. Section 706 increases funding for Tinian by $182,719 which includes an increase of $56,622 for the Municipal Council; $10,000 for Customs; $40,000 for the Economic Development of Tinian; $30,000 for DPS-Police; over $7,000 for the Mayor of Tinian; and over $48,000 for the Tinian Public Library.

Inos said "again, these increases lack justification, with the exception of the Municipal Council, which is mandated to utilize $9,600 for office rental, $10,000 for office operations and $35,000 for public programs."

"Still, the governor's submission included operations funds for the Municipal Council, making this increase puzzling. The increases in either the first or second senatorial districts may have been to bring those municipalities to equal levels of funding as reflected in this measure," Inos said.

9 INCREASED FUNDING FOR MAYOR OF SAIPAN. An additional 10 positions were added to the Office of the Mayor without additional funds for personnel. However, the operations account was increased by $170,000.

10 DRASTIC CUT IN FUNDING FOR THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY. The Legislature cut MVA funding by 56 percent compared to the governor's submission. Inos said this is "alarming," considering that MVA provides service for the CNMI's sole economic industry: tourism.

"This is a serious problem for MVA as they continue to counter decline in the tourism industry. It was the understanding of the administration that the Senate would pass HB 17-179 simultaneously with this appropriations act to supplement the MVA's budget since the Legislature slashed 56 percent of the MVA's operations budget," Inos said.

The acting governor said that failure to pass HB 17-179 "will cripple MVA's promotional activities, thereby affecting the rest of the Commonwealth's economic activities."

11 ASSOCIATION OF PACIFIC ISLAND LEGISLATURES FUNDING. While APIL is listed under independent programs, Inos said this program should be appropriately listed under the budget of the Legislature.

12 SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION FUNDING. Section 701(f) gives $77,162 for personnel and operations of the Substance Abuse Prevention Program. Inos said this section is problematic as it is a new program that was not previously funded for and is now included in the law despite the lack of a spending plan in place.

Inos said the Substance Abuse Prevention Program is an existing program under the Community Guidance Center, a federally funded program, which operates independent of local appropriations.

"The addition of this section is puzzling as the Department of Public Health neither requested nor needed this funding," Inos said.

BUDGET

From Page 1

go into effect on Oct. 1, the start of the new fiscal year.

This means regular work hours will still be 64 hours instead of 80 every two weeks.

"Problematic" sections of the budget include the Legislature giving itself a 29-percent increase in its funding—some $1.224 million higher compared to the governor's budget submission—while cutting the funding for the Marianas Visitors Authority by 56 percent or from $5.030 million to $2.175 million.

MVA provides services to the CNMI's only economic industry, tourism.

Inos reiterated his call for the Senate to pass House Bill 17-179, which seeks to charge passengers from non-U.S. destinations a new $15 "travel promotion fee," collections from which will supplement MVA's budget since the Legislature cut MVA's budget by 56 percent.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said the Senate will pass that bill this week, pending clarification of some provisions and terms in the bill.

Public Law 17-55

The 2012 budget bill, introduced by Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), is now Public Law 17-55.

Basa, in an interview after the bill's signing, said he's extremely happy that a budget law was signed before the start of the new fiscal year, preventing another shutdown.

He said his Ways and Means Committee will heed the acting governor's call to prioritize actions on the budget bill after the governor's submission, and not wait for the last minute to introduce a bill.

"We promise, next year, we will introduce and pass a budget bill early," Basa told *Saipan Tribune.*

Basa also chaired the eight-member conference committee that worked to break the budget deadlock between the House and Senate. The panel came up with the compromise bill that the House and Senate passed on Friday.

Inos was surrounded by lawmakers and Cabinet members when he signed the bill yesterday morning in the governor's conference room.

While everyone in the room was relieved that there will be no shutdown, the acting governor's written message sounded different from the way lawmakers congratulated each other on Friday night for passing a bill on Sept. 23, just days before the Sept. 30 deadline.

"I approve this measure despite its many problematic provisions in consideration of our government employees and government functions that need to continue," the acting governor said in his message to House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota).

The $102-million budget for fiscal year 2012 is down from the $132 million budget law for fiscal year 2011, which was later revised to $122 million. Government budget used to be over $200 million but a toxic mix of problems led to the drastic cut in revenues coming in, mostly because of the tourism decline and the pullout of the garment industry.

Legislature gets what it wants

While the Judiciary and Executive Branch will continue to be subjected to 16-hour cuts and unpaid holidays in fiscal year 2012, except for so-called critical government positions, the Legislature ended up not only being exempt from work hour cuts, but also got a 29 percent or $1.224 million increase in their budget compared to what the governor and the House had originally allocated.

Lawmakers' salaries are constitutionally protected and only at least three of 29 members volunteered to cut their pay in solidarity with other employees.

The 29 lawmakers' operational account—which they use to hire employees, among other things—went up to $78,000 compared to the $51,000 that the House had proposed and the "zero amount" the Senate earlier wanted. Because of this, lawmakers' individual office employees are more likely to continue getting paid their full salary.

Moreover, of the $1.224 million increase in the Legislature's budget, $429,000 is for the Legislative Bureau—a 42 percent increase from what was originally submitted.

Inos himself said in his message that the increase in LB funding "exempts" the LB from any austerity work hours that will be borne by other government departments and agencies.

Marianas House

The acting governor said the administration recognizes the additional funding provided for the operations for the Office of the Lt. Governor, which will primarily be used to restore the Marianas House in Washington, D.C.

He said this past fiscal year, funds were spent from the operations account of the Office of the Lt. Governor to make repairs and pay pending bills for the Marianas House.

"In addition, the balance will be used to supplement the shortfall in ARRA funds necessary to upgrade [the] CNMI's financial management system," he added.

PSS, NMC funding

Despite his concerns with other provisions, Inos said he is pleased that sufficient funds were appropriated for the Public School System and Northern Marianas College "so as to arm them with the resources needed to educate our students."

The $1.190 million that was previously requested for scholarship awards has been transferred from the governor's operations account directly to the NMC Scholarship Office.

This, along with additional funding as NMC requested, will allow it to meet the maintenance-of-effort requirement to receive the College Access Challenge Grant.

NMC will be getting a total of $5.2 million, the amount it requested.

As for PSS, the governor is authorized to transfer at least $500,000 from funds received from petitions filed pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229 for vocational educational curricula and program development.

PSS has a budget of $30 million.

The House and Senate passed a conference committee budget bill during back-to-back sessions on Friday.

The Legislature transmitted the budget bill to the administration on Saturday morning.

Had the Legislature and the administration failed to pass and sign a budget bill into law by Sept. 30, the constitutional provision on shutdown will kick in on Oct. 1. Last year's budget deadlock wasn't resolved until after almost two weeks of partial government shutdown, leaving over 1,000 government employees out of jobs for days.

Unique

It is unusual for the CNMI to have its budget law signed by an acting governor.

Inos is believed to be the first, if not the second, acting governor to ever sign a budget law.

For two consecutive years, the CNMI government passed and signed a budget law, but mainly because the Constitution was amended to ensure timely passage or there will be a shutdown.

It is also rare that a budget law is signed a week before the start of a new fiscal year.

Moreover, the acting governor signed the $102 million budget law on his 62nd birthday. He was born on Sept. 26, 1949.

During lunch break in the governor's conference room, staffers surprised the acting governor with a birthday song and lunch.

Inos thanked the Office of the Governor and Office of Lt. Governor employees and others for their hard work. He said the past year has been tough, especially because he had just lost his wife.

The budget bill is House Bill 17-215, House Substitute 1, House Draft 5, Senate Substitute 1, Conference Committee Substitute 1.

‘Soup kitchen’s clients almost double since May opening’

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of clients being served by the soup kitchen founded by the CNMI Salvation Army called Guma Yo’ Ase’ has doubled since it opened in May, according to ministry leader Wayne Gillespie.

“We’ve seen a big increase of people coming into the soup kitchen, a rough double. We only expect it to get worse. I know that it has because of the economy,” Gillespie said.

The international faith-based organization officially opened the Guma Yo’ Ase’ (House of Mercy), a two-story facility across Hopwood Junior High School, on May 7.

A rummage sale area is on the ground floor of the facility where used clothing, appliances, furniture, and other items are sold to support the soup kitchen and other programs of the CNMI Salvation Army.

The second floor, on the other hand, houses the soup kitchen itself, which can accommodate up to 50. It also serves as a homeless drop-in center where people can take a shower and do laundry besides having a decent meal.

Gillespie noted that the soup kitchen has had “great donors” from various establishments and companies such as Dickerson & Quinn, Foremost, and Hyatt Regency Saipan, which donate food and other items.

With the soup kitchen serving more and more people, Gillespie underscored the need for more donors and encouraged other businesses, organizations, and individuals to support it.

“This is the time for all of us to pull together our resources and help those caught up in economic troubles,” Gillespie told *Saipan Tribune*.

Gillespie said that assistance for Guma Yo’ Ase’ can come in the form of non-perishable food items that will be served at the soup kitchen or donations of “clean and serviceable items” for the rummage sale area.

He said these clean and serviceable items can be sold cheaply at the rummage sale area to defray their expenses at the soup kitchen and, at the same time, provide the community with great deals on the used items. “Everybody wins,” he added.

Gillespie urged the public to donate items that they no longer use to the rummage sale area. “Get rid of stuff cluttered in your houses and donate them to us. See the satisfaction that you are able to feed the hungry and help the poor in general.”

Non-perishable food and rummage sale items can be dropped off at the soup kitchen between 9:30am and 12:30pm. The soup kitchen, meanwhile, feeds the hungry from 11am to 1pm.

For more information, call 483-0885 or email wayne.gillespie@usw.salvationarmy.org.

CNMI Scholarship Office: 1,111 students apply for financial aid

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over a thousand students applied for financial aid with the CNMI Scholarship Office this fall semester—a 35-percent increase in the number of applications the office received in the last five years, according to administrator Jackie Che.

Of the 1,111 applications for the current semester, Che said that 1,053 were able to meet the deadline.

As of last week, 405 applications for the Educational Assistance Program have been approved; 69 were denied; 108 are under review; and the rest remain pending for the receipt of documents. The deadline for these supporting documents is Sept. 30.

Che said that students will be notified about their pending documents this week via letter and email.

Of the thousand-plus applications, about 800 applications may be eligible for the financial awards, Che said.

“Because we have reached our 10-day mark until the deadline, our final numbers of approved and denied recipients will increase. I am projecting 800 approved recipients this year,” she told *Saipan Tribune.*

As for the honors award recipients, she said 10 are new, 32 are ongoing, and 13 are terminated recipients due to non-compliance. To date, 20 have been approved for honors scholarship and 12 are under review.

Of the 1,111 total applications this fall semester, 669 are on-island applicants, 386 are off-island applicants, and the remaining 57 turned in their applications past the deadline, Che said.

“Because of the increase in our applicant pool and our $2 million budget, there will definitely be a reduction in the awards this school year. The board has yet to approve the award allocation per student this fall. Award letters will be sent out beginning October,” said Che.

The NMI Scholarship Office functions under the Office of the Governor and is appropriated an annual budget of $2 million. Of the figure, almost half of it goes to the Honors Scholarship Program, each of whom receives up to $15,000 a year while a little over half of the program funding goes to EAP recipients, each of whom gets $1,200.

Che had disclosed that reduction in the financial awards is expected this year to ensure the continuity of the scholarship program.

IN RETRIAL OF MURDER SUSPECT

Jury impaneled; opening statements to commence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos completed yesterday afternoon selecting the jury for the retrial of Franklin Cabrera Cepeda Jr. in connection with the killing of a businessman in San Jose in 1999.

The prosecution and defense counsel are expected to give their opening statements today, Tuesday. Assistant attorneys general Russell Lorfing and Peter B. Prestley are prosecuting the case. Defense attorney Colin Thompson is representing Cepeda.

Cepeda’s retrial is the third involving the murder of Chinese businessman Rong Matthew Zhou at his Yellow House Karaoke on March 1, 1999.

In 2000, the Office of the Attorney General charged Jeffrey Deleon Guerrero with murder for Zhou’s killing but he was acquitted during the trial.

Soon after, police identified Cepeda and George Ilo as the suspects in Zhou’s murder and charges were filed against them. Ilo pleaded guilty as part of a plea deal.

In January 2005, a jury found Cepeda guilty of first-degree murder, robbery, aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and conspiracy. Three months later, then Superior Court associate judge Juan T. Lizama sentenced Cepeda to 66 years in prison.

Cepeda appealed. In November 2009, the CNMI Supreme Court vacated his convictions and ordered a new trial, ruling that Lizama did not instruct the jury on all of the essential elements necessary to secure a robbery conviction.

The justices also determined that Lizama improperly admitted witness testimony that was so prejudicial that Cepeda was denied his right to a fair trial.

Police said that on March 1, 1999, Cepeda and Ilo, both of whom were then 22 years old, killed and robbed Zhou inside his Yellow House Karaoke. The victim sustained multiple stab wounds.

Critic-turned-filmmaker makes his debut at Guam filmfest

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Seattle-born up-and-coming filmmaker who considers Saipan a second home is setting his sights on Hollywood with the completion of his first feature-length directorial debut, which will have its world premiere at the 2011 Guam International Film Festival.

Joseph Weindl produced and directed *Antihero*, a "fun, silly movie" about best friends and comedic duo Pork Rind and Weezie who "embark on an all-too-easy burglary spree" after the former discovers "a psychic power he never knew he had."

The movie, which took 21 days spanning more than four weeks to film, stars mostly students and graduates of Virginia Commonwealth University's theater department—Brian Gartland, Joe Carlson, Nicole Carter, and Ryan Asher—who either volunteered or were paid very low fees.

Described by Weindl as "mostly a comedy, with a bit of adventure," *Antihero* is an 84-minute full-length feature film shot in and around Richmond neighborhood that would most likely give *Harold & Kumar* movies a run for their money, being a classic road-trip movie "with a supernatural twist."

Currently working as a bartender in Richmond, Virginia, Weindl said via email that the inspiration for the film originated from an old-fashioned brainstorming session with some of his coworkers during a particularly slow shift at work.

"Restaurant work is kind of cliché for actors and filmmakers, but the reason for that is that you can make an okay amount of money, while having a very flexible schedule, allowing you to actively pursue your artistic endeavors," he said.

But Weindl—who graduated from Marianas High School, was a teacher at Saipan Southern High School, and built relationships with family and friends who are still on island—was initially a film critic, writing movie reviews for the *Saipan Tribune* back in late 2004 to early 2005. While he enjoyed his critiquing stint, he said he "often felt like I was on the wrong side of the pen."

"So, in a way, my writing job with the [*Saipan*] *Tribune* served as a pretty major catalyst to get me to stop writing about movies, and to finally pick up a camera," he said.

That's when Weindl took off work for a month and, with the help of a filmmaker friend who served as his only crewmember, shot *Antihero* on a shoestring budget.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Antihero cast play a game of Edward 40-Hands. From left, Nicole Carter, who plays the role of Lainee; Brian Gartland as Pork Rind; and Joe Carlson as Weezie. The 84-minute full feature film will have its premiere at the 2011 Guam International Film Festival and screens on Sunday, Oct. 2 at 11:15am at the Stadium 5 of Micronesian Mall Stadium Theaters.

"As fun as the process is, overall, there were many times when I just wanted to pull my hair out since I was forced to do so many things at the same time."

His biggest challenge? Working around a limited budget. The movie eventually cost Weindl $5,000 for production and another $5,000 for post-production.

Still, "the creative process involved with filmmaking is simply exhilarating, so there's really no comparison."

Weindl said that having his directorial debut featured at the inaugural year of the Guam International Film Festival is "really terrific" for two reasons.

"First, it's personal. Even if only a couple of friends that I grew up with are able to attend, I'll be very happy about that. Secondly, I just really like this festival, and the people who are organizing it, both of whom are filmmakers themselves. I think a prominent festival like this could lead to an influx of filmmaking in the Mariana islands, if not all of Micronesia, and that would only be a good thing," he said.

Antihero is one of eight feature narrative films in the festival, which runs from Sept. 30 to Oct. 2.

Weindl's film has also been included in the finalists for the prize of Best Made in the Marianas, the winner of which will be chosen by a grand jury composed of head juror Baltazar Aguon, who received a Master of Fine Arts in Screenwriting from the American Film Institute's Center for Advanced Film and Television Studies; Gabrielle Kelly, an Associate Arts professor at the New York University; Tom Brilsin, professor and chair of the University of Hawaii Academy for Creative Media; and Daniel Ferranti, who co-founded Boston's Acme Theatre.

Weindl said he made *Antihero* "as a way of showing what I'm capable of, as a director, so that I might be able to attract investors for the next big project."

"I certainly hope this film leads to more being made in the future. In fact, that was the entire reason for making this movie," he said.

Noting that majority of Hollywood's top directors did not receive professional filmmaking training, Weindl advised aspiring filmmakers "to just start making movies" after obtaining basic equipment like an inexpensive camera, a cheap personal computer, and PC editing-station.

Weindl said the basics of filmmaking can be found in free tutorials online. "From there, all you need is practice, practice, and more practice. Early on, it's normal for a first-time filmmaker to rely on friends and family for cast and crew. As your skills grow, so will your contacts, and the caliber of people who are willing to work with you. From there, all you need is patience, persistence, and a whole lot of gumption."

The up-and-coming filmmaker said that *Antihero* is recommended only for adults as it "contains mature content and persistent use of language that some might find offensive."

Weindl invites the mature public to watch *Antihero*, which screens at 11:15am on Sunday, Oct. 2 at Stadium 5 of the Micronesian Mall Stadium Theaters. Tickets are only $5 each.

To learn about the movie and to view the trailer, visit www.antihero-movie.com.

Early Signs of Autism
Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Red flags to watch for from birth to age 3

Social
Children with autism may:
- Not share warm, joyful facial expressions, such as smiles by 6 months
- Not babble and coo by 12 months
- Not respond to their name by 12 months
- Use few or no gestures (e.g., does not wave goodbye, point, etc.) by 12 months
- Not play "pretend" games (pretend to "feed" a doll) by 18 months
- Avoid eye contact
- Avoid other people and prefer to play alone
- Prefer not to be held or cuddled
- Have delayed speech and language skills.

Behavioral
Children with autism may:
- Be very organized (e.g., line up toys or other objects)
- Get upset by minor changes
- Have odd movement patterns (e.g., flaps hands, rocks body, or spins self in circles)
- Have frequent temper tantrums
- Be overly active
- Purposely hurt themselves
- Repeat words or actions over and over
- Look at objects from unusual angles.

Other areas
Children with autism often:
- Are overly sensitive to touch, sounds, taste or smells
- Lack fear in dangerous situations
- Have an intense need for routines
- Have learning difficulties
- Lose skills they once had (for instance, stop saying words they were using).

If you have concerns about your child's development, contact your baby's doctor or call the Children's Developmental Assistance Center at 664-4830 for a free developmental screening.
Children with autism can learn, grow and succeed.
Early action is the key!
Big Steps for Little Feet
Division of Public Health, Health and Well-Being
CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

Aging Office takes part in emergency response exercise

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office on Aging recently attended a tabletop exercise that tested the response capabilities and coordination of the CNMI, the military, and federal emergency response agencies in the aftermath of a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and tsunami on the islands.

The "Rumble" Exercise, coordinated by the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Defense Joint Region Marianas, was held at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center in Capitol Hill last Sept. 21 to 22.

Aging program coordinator Walter Manglona said he was appointed by Aging director Rose Mondala to attend the training on her behalf.

In the report he submitted to the director, Manglona said the first day of training focused on learning about earthquakes, reinforced through participation in case scenarios of actual incidents.

Manglona said participants were divided into four sections: Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration. He was given the title of deputy section chief under the Planning section.

"It was a bit of a struggle at first since I was not familiar [with] the terms and codes of law enforcement, but after listening and observing attentively I was able to pull through," said Manglona.

The second day of training focused on familiarizing participants about tsunamis and "what to do if one should ever hit the CNMI."

"If a tsunami were to hit one of our islands, a safe zone would be anywhere that is 50 feet or more in elevation," he said.

According to Manglona, Joint Region Marianas defense coordinating officer Roy Tsutsui also held a workshop on Defense Support of Civil Authority on the last day of the training.

"His [Tsutsui] lecture covered various topics, including rescue missions and recovery during past typhoons and other natural disasters, how to acquire federal assistance such as FEMA, and the steps to take in case of future natural disasters," said Manglona.

"I came in feeling slightly out of place in the new atmosphere, but I eventually caught on and executed my assignment with ease. The two-day workshop was eye opening and worthwhile to attend," he added.

NMC performance workshop helps students improve public speaking

Students at the Northern Marianas College are using comedy to help improve their public speaking skills in an acting/performance workshop conducted by experienced comic performer and educator, Russ Mason, M.S.

Mason says that many are fearful of getting up before a group of people yet everybody is a "goofball" with their friends. He believes that by having people make fools of themselves will allow them to eventually open up more.

"We play a game called Village Idiot, as well as other games, to loosen everybody up. Because, so long as people are shy, afraid or self-conscious, they will be constricted in everything they do—not just in the workshop, but also in life."

"With that, they will have a surge of self-confidence and have more fun in life," Mason added.

Carleen Mosses, a nursing student at NMC, describes her experience so far as "scary at first but the activities we participated in helped all of us open up. It's a cool way to help people with their public speaking."

The workshop is offered free of charge to all NMC students but those interested are encouraged to attend as soon as possible since class size is limited to the first 20 people.

The acting/performance workshop is currently held at the NMC Student Center, every Tuesday and Thursday from 12pm to 1pm and will run from now until Nov. 22. For more information, contact Luis John Castro at 234-5498 Ext. 1251 or email at luisjohnc@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

NMC

NMC students pose for a group photo with comic performer Russ Mason, M.S., center, during a recent session of the college's first ever acting/performance Workshop.

5 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged six beach sites on Saipan and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. The affected sites are the DPW Channel Bridge, south Puerto Rico dump, north of the American Memorial Park, Micro Beach, and Garapan Fishing Dock

DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples are taken from 38 locations on the Saipan coast every Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB11-CHC-135
Submission Date: October 12, 2011 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"PEST CONTROL SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

Copies of the scope of work may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Questions regarding this IFB should be directed to Thomas Palacios, Chief of General Support Services by Fax to (670) 234-8930 or e-mail to **tspalacios@gmail.com** no later than the close of business, **September 29, 2011**.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Health

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB11-CHC-136
Submission Date: October 12, 2011 • Time: 1:00 p.m.

"OUTSIDE GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

Copies of the scope of work may be picked up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Questions regarding this IFB should be directed to Thomas Palacios, Chief of General Support Services by Fax to (670) 234-8930 or e-mail to **tspalacios@gmail.com** no later than the close of business, **September 29, 2011**.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the bid if preference is claimed.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Health

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
2011-CDA-06-RFP

LOAN UNDERWRITER

The Commonwealth Development Authority is soliciting competitive proposals from qualified firms, companies, agencies and/or persons to provide the services of a loan underwriter experienced in all aspects of the underwriting process, to provide independent contractual services for the CDA in the implementation of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) Loan Guaranty and Loan Participation Programs. This procurement is being conducted pursuant to CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 70-30.3, specifically § 70-30.3-235).

The CDA on behalf of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) has applied for State Small Business Credit Initiative funds in the amount of $13,168,350 for the Loan Participation and Loan Guaranty Programs. Programs are subject to CDA and lender criteria as well as SSBCI guidelines.

The purpose of the programs is to provide businesses with high growth and job creation potential that will diversify and strengthen the local economy. It encourages expansion of existing and emerging new industries to expand economic opportunity to all in the community.

The Program targets the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CDA encourages the leveraging of new private investment in the form of fixed asset and working capital investment. The Program provides loan guaranty and participation of up to $5 million to businesses at interest rates and loan maturities that encourage business development and facilitate reinvestment while providing for the recapitalization and growth of fund. The program perpetuates a positive and proactive business climate that encourages the retention and expansion of existing businesses and helps to attract desirable new businesses. The Program objective is to leverage the SSBCI funding ten times (10X) with private financing.

The guidelines and specifications for this RFP may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority, Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950 during normal working hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Holidays, or from the Office of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base.

Respectfully

/s/ MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

CNMI COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CONTROL PROGRAM

Survivor & Caregiver Support Meeting Tomorrow - September 28, 2011

All people facing cancer, their family members, and other caregivers are invited to the next monthly support meeting scheduled for

Wednesday, September 28th, 2011 at Fiesta Resort, starting at 5:30pm.

This month's support meeting will be conducted by the Department of Public Health's B.R.I.S.K. PROJECT Co-Investigator, Ms. Arielle Buyum and the program's Research Assistant Ms. Frances Hofschneider. Their presentation will feature detailed information on the Breast Cancer Research Study. As well as a closer look into the Department of Public Health's B.R.I.S.K. PROJECT. They will also be handing out brochures for giveaways.

To RSVP or for more information, please contact the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org, or call the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728

This ad is brought to you by the Department of Public Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program with 100% funding from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Leaders launch new shark conservation effort

» Bahamas, Colombia, Honduras, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia, and Palau commit to more sanctuaries; international action

NEW YORK—Leaders from eight countries launched an initiative Friday to prevent the extinction of sharks, symbolizing the latest development in the growing movement to safeguard the ocean's top predator. Members of the coalition committed to a declaration supporting the development of sanctuaries that end commercial shark fishing in their national waters.

This announcement comes just one year after President Johnson Toribiong of Palau and President Porfirio Lobo Sosa of Honduras issued a global challenge to protect dwindling shark species. Several countries, states and territories have answered that call by committing to a range of conservation policies. This year, Honduras, the Bahamas, the Maldives and Tokelau have created sanctuaries for sharks off their shores, and the countries of Micronesia committed to establishing them in their waters.

Commercial fishing of these animals is now prohibited in more than 2.7 million square kilometers (1 million square miles), an area larger than Mexico and Texas combined. Domestically, trade bans on sharks and shark products recently passed in California, Washington and Oregon, and internationally in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

"With each new sanctuary, sharks gain another ally in their fight for survival," said Matt Rand, director of Global Shark Conservation for the Pew Environment Group, the organization which is spearheading efforts to establish shark sanctuaries where targeted fishing for the species is prohibited.

Sharks are especially vulnerable to overfishing because they mature and reproduce slowly. As top predators, their depletion also has risks for the health of entire ocean ecosystems. Up to 73 million of these animals are killed each year to support the global fin trade, while 30 percent of all sharks are threatened or near threatened with extinction. Some populations, such as the scalloped hammerhead, have declined by up to 98 percent. But many governments are recognizing that sharks are more valuable alive and can be a key economic driver as a tourist attraction.

"The shark sanctuary here supports the health of our ocean environment and economy," said Honduran President Sosa. "However, these species migrate beyond our waters, so it is necessary for us to work together to ensure that their populations and marine ecosystems are healthy."

Sharks are the intended catch of some fisheries. They are also frequently caught unintentionally as bycatch. In certain fishing operations, including open sea longliners that target tuna and swordfish, as much as 25 percent of the take can be shark bycatch.

"When I created Palau's sanctuary in 2009, I knew our country's action could not accomplish the task of conserving the ocean's vast biodiversity alone," said Palau President Toribiong. "Our ocean's health depends on sharks. I am delighted that more countries are pledging to play an active role in ensuring these creatures' survival, not just in our lifetime but for future generations as well."

Under the declaration supported by The Bahamas, Colombia, Honduras, the Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia and Palau, up to 6 million additional square kilometers (2.3 million square miles)—greater than three times the land mass of Mexico—could be off-limits to commercial shark fishing and designated as shark sanctuaries. By signing the pledge, signatories commit to:

- maintain or develop shark sanctuaries;
- work together internationally to ensure healthy shark populations; and
- advocate for better science-based precautionary protection for sharks in all international fora.

"We applaud these countries for their leadership in protecting these amazing animals, and Pew will continue to work with governments and key stakeholders to support shark conservation efforts as they implement these new commitments," said Rand. ***(Pew Environment Group)***

ROTA AIRPORT GETS NEW NAME OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, lawmakers, and officials from the Commonwealth Ports Authority join former lieutenant governor Benjamin T. Manglona and his family members shortly after the enactment of Public Law 17-53 renaming the Rota International Airport as the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.

Man'amko kick off work on digital yearbook

Four congregates at the Aging Center volunteered to form part of a committee that will work on the *man'amko*'s digital yearbook project.

Walter Manglona, program coordinator at the Aging Office, said that the committee is composed of four volunteers who want to share ideas on how to go about the project.

"I was just gathering information and when I called people in, there was just a few *man'amko* that showed up," Manglona disclosed.

According to Manglona, the committee members do not want to make the project to be "too boring." Instead, they want to turn it into a kind of entertainment show "where it showcases their talents and what they do" and captures their personality at the same time.

"They want to make it more a humorous/educational type of program to go around the whole yearbook idea," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

Manglona noted that the four-volunteer member committee is still "unofficial" as he is yet to meet with the newly elected members of the Saipan Seniors Advisory Council who can assign a subcommittee to handle the project.

"There's so much going on. There's a lot of ideas. This new council right now is very eager to get started," he said.

He said their target release for the digital yearbook is by December since the *man'amko* don't want to rush a "great" project.

"I want to plan it ahead where we not only give it for the *man'amko* but also for the community. That way, maybe they can do some kind of fundraising with the project," said Manglona. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to our sister, Deena! You're another year older. Have fun and be safe on your birthday today. We love you! Greetings come from Loli, Vince, Mom, Dad, Nieves, Beng, V'nisha, Francine, Jimber, Isidro, CJ, and you're favorite, "Marley."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 27, 2000

PCB level in Tanapag water, food almost nil

Food and water in Tanapag village were found safe from polychlorinated biphenyl contamination, except the land crabs, according to preliminary results of the laboratory testing conducted in the U.S. mainland. Food items such as taro, yam, clams, chicken eggs and fish did not yield any PCB level during the testing. However, the eight land crabs taken within the area of the cemetery showed detectable PCB limits, said Norman Lovelace, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 manager. Likewise, laboratory results of 18 samples of groundwater taken from Tanapag and the Lower Base yielded "non-detect" PCB levels.

DDC gathers close to 1,000 signatures for IDEA campaign

The Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council transmitted yesterday close to a thousand signatures gathered from various CNMI agencies in support of a petition to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The nationwide campaign to secure more federal share for the benefit of students with disabilities led by the National Campaign to Fully Fund the IDEA aims to raise annual IDEA allotment to 40 percent from the current 13 percent. According to NCFFI, the 13 percent federal share falls short of the funds needed to assist states and territories in providing special education and related services to students with disabilities.

Sept. 27, 2001

PSS: Travel vouchers not missing

The Public School System yesterday produced records indicating that it has managed to recoup large portions of its travel advances, significantly reducing an outstanding travel balance that has reached close to $500,000 over the last ten years. Education officials said it has been steadfast in enforcing stricter collection policies to finally rid the system of the long-standing accumulated balance, which incumbent PSS officials inherited from past administrations. Dispelling earlier reports that thousands of dollars worth of travel vouchers are missing from PSS, Acting Education Commissioner Louise Concepcion explained that in the past, individuals who traveled under PSS' tab just failed to turn over the necessary documents to the fiscal office, where it is accounted for.

Democrat's House bets take drug test

Leading the way for the other electoral candidates, the two congressional bets of the Democrat Party for Precinct 4 submitted themselves to a laboratory drug test to prove to their constituents that they are drug-free. Reelectionist Rep. Dino M. Jones and Justo S. Quitogua submitted urine samples to the Diagnotic Laboratory in Gualo Rai on Tuesday to be tested for the presence of prohibited and controlled substances. "The results of the laboratory examinations will be known in two weeks since the samples will still have to be flown off-island for testing as the local laboratories here do not have the equipment for this type of test," said Jones.

Sept. 27, 2002

DD Council gets $50K in US demonstration grant

The CNMI Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities yesterday announced that it received a grant award of $50,000 from a sub-agency of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The good news was relayed to the Council by Catherine Alvarez, grants management specialist of the USDHHS. "It's a pleasure to inform you that your proposal for your state Family Support project has been approved for funding under the Administration on Developmental Disabilities Family Support Program," said Alvarez in her Sept. 11 letter to Thomas J. Camacho, executive director of the DD Council.

Microloan reaches $91K in second quarter

The Commonwealth Development Authority has approved the release of some $91,500 worth of Microloans in the second quarter of 2002, down by half the total amount registered during the same period in 2001. However, the reduction in the amount of approved loans during the April-June period doesn't necessarily mirror a slowdown in CDA's issuance of loans under its Microloan Program, but actually reflects the level of funds available for the purpose. The Microloan Program, a partnership between the CDA and the U.S. Small Business Administration, is funded under a loan package extended by the SBA to the development authority. The CDA can only loan out from the SBA's specific funding for the program.

Every act counts: NMI joins global Moving Planet event

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the third year in a row, the CNMI joined global efforts to solve the climate crisis and reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere through the Moving Planet event on Sept. 24.

Moving Planet was a worldwide day to put demands for climate action into motion and go beyond fossil fuels by means of marching, biking or skating, drawing some 2,000 events in over 175 countries.

The event is part of 350.org, a global grassroots movement to solve the climate crisis through mass public actions and climate solutions projects in different communities around the world.

350.org campaigns for the need to reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere from its current level of 392 parts per million to below 350 ppm.

On Saipan, a little over a hundred individuals clad in their walking attire or seen riding bikes gathered at the Garapan Fishing Base where the event began at 6:30am.

Participants marched or rode their bikes to the American Memorial Park where several booths gave away informational materials that educate the public about the importance of the initiative.

Shane Golingo, a freshman at the Northern Marianas College, said she was already at the Garapan Fishing Base as early as 5:30am to help her group, the Environmental Natural Resource Organization, set up for the event.

"It's important to reduce the carbon dioxide in our planet so we should use less fossil fuel and help the environment little by little," the 18-year-old Golingo told *Saipan Tribune*.

As part of efforts to sustain the environment, Saipan Grand Hotel employee Lea Belo said she and husband Reyn follow the 3R principle: reduce, reuse, recycle.

Aware of the need to lessen their carbon footprint, Belo said she and her husband would walk short distances such as going to the store.

"Walking is a healthy practice not only for oneself but also for the environment," said the As Lito resident.

Raymond Tudela of Chalan Dandan said he was encouraged to participate in the event by daughter Christina Tudela, who is affiliated with MINA.

"We love the outdoor and the nature anyway. We love hiking so we decided to attend," he said, adding that he would encourage family members and friends to continue doing practices that are beneficial to the environment.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Participants of the Moving Planet event choose their free tree saplings at the American Memorial Park last Saturday. A little over a hundred took part in the event held simultaneously in over 175 countries to put demands for climate action into motion and go beyond fossil fuels by means of marching, biking or skating.

Free tree saplings were also given away to Moving Planet participants for planting in their properties.

Fran Castro, Division of Environmental Quality's Non-Point Source Pollution Program manager, said the event was a partnership between DEQ and Coastal Resources Management, drawing participation from nonprofit organizations such as Mariana Islands Nature Alliance and volunteer groups such as the National Resource Management Program at NMC.

"It shows that we really care about climate change and that we're actually doing something about it," Castro said about the Commonwealth's participation.

What started as an event with hardly any participants on its first year is growing each year as more people are becoming more aware of what the number "350" is about, said Castro, adding that she expects even more participation next year.

"The more that we do to make a difference, the more it counts. Everything you do counts. Planting a tree is so simple. You could do it in your backyard. Ride your bike or even just walk. Every act counts," said Castro.

MLSC SETS SECOND WORKSHOP

Learn how to prepare parole-in-place applications

The Marianas Office of Micronesian Legal Services Corporation is hosting a series of workshops to help people prepare parole-in-place applications. These workshops are aimed at those foreign nationals or aliens who have no other options for their status.

The *second* workshop is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 16, 2011, at American Memorial Park at 1pm. It is for *only* those foreign nationals who are 1) spouses or widows/widowers of or 2) parents or children of citizens of the United States of America.

Parole-in-place is an option of last-resort. Generally speaking, where other options are available, like the CW permit for those employed, those options should be exhausted first.

Although MLSC will conduct the workshop to help people understand the process and put together their applications, no individual legal advice will be given. MLSC will not be accepting cases or filing on behalf of those who attend the workshops. The purpose of the session is simply to help get information out and help people utilize the process as successfully as they can.

Each workshop will be conducted in English. Each workshop is limited by the capacity of the auditorium at American Memorial Park. If there are no auditorium seats available, the sessions will be closed. *Please* do not bring children to the workshop. Children may not be left unattended in the park's museum or gift shop. For more information, contact the Marianas Office at 234-6243. ***(MLSC)***

Asian Pacific American Caucus meets with Obama

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, or CAPAC, met Friday with President Barack Obama at the White House to discuss issues important to the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo, as CAPAC vice chair, discussed Guam and territorial issues with the President, thanking him for his past support of Guam war claims and asking for his continued help to pass the bill in Congress.

The Obama administration continues to support Bordallo's efforts to resolve Guam war claims. The Departments of Defense and the Interior have testified before Congress about their continued support.

Bordallo also spoke about the need to extend parole authority to Guam for Chinese and Russian visitors. The White House committed to ensuring a continued dialogue with the Department of Homeland Security on the status of extending parole authority to Guam. Bordallo expressed hope that the White House will continue to provide policy direction on the importance of this initiative to DHS.

The meeting also focused on the need for tax considerations for the territories when the administration is developing national economic policy. Bordallo and the other delegates, including CNMI Delegate Kilili C. Sablan, recently sent a letter to Obama requesting that he include cover over provisions for the territories in his American Jobs Act. Bordallo thanked the President for listening the delegates' concerns and for including cover over provisions in his bill.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

President Barack Obama meets with members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus in the Cabinet Room of the White House.

"President Obama showed that he is sensitive to the needs of Guam and all Pacific islanders," said Bordallo. "I made the point that our visitor industry will grow with the inclusion of Chinese and Russian visitors. I also told him that Guam's goals are similar to those expressed by Vice President Biden last month in China to make it easier for Chinese tourists to visit the United States. I thanked the President for including cover over provisions in the American Jobs Act and for his concern for the economies of the territories. I also reminded him that we were disappointed that he had to cancel his scheduled visits to Guam last year and that our invitation still stands and our welcome mat is always out." ***(PR)***

Call for nominations for 2011 Governor's Humanities Awards

The NMI Humanities Council is now accepting nominations for the 2011 Governor's Humanities Awards.

The awards program is an annual event during CNMI Humanities Month to recognize outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals and organizations in our community.

Nominations may be submitted in one of five categories:

ON THE NET

Nomination forms:http://www.nmihumanities.org/update/file/GHA%20nom%20form%202011.pdf
Nomination instructions: http://www.nmihumanities.org/update/file/GHA%20instructions.pdf

- Research and Publication in the Humanities
- Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices
- Preservation of CNMI History
- Outstanding Humanities Teacher (both classroom and non-classroom settings)
- Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities

The most prestigious award—Lifetime Achievement—is given to a nominee who has made significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

In order to be considered for the 2011 awards, the Council must receive nomination forms and accompanying supporting documentation no later than 4pm on Oct. 10, 2011. Nominations may be made by any member of the community. Nomination forms and instructions are available at the Council's office in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai or may be downloaded from the links above.

Contact Council staff at 235-4785 for more information about this program. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Those who went to war deserve a job when they return

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With the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, you'd think it would inspire unanimous support for at least one of President Obama's proposals: to create big tax credits for companies that hire military veterans.

Not so much. When it comes to our obligation, in Lincoln's phrase, "to care for him who shall have borne the battle," too often the line stops at the unemployment office.

The White House says that as of June, the unemployment rate for post-9/11 veterans was 13.3 percent, 4.2 percent higher than the current national rate. The Obama administration's Veterans Hiring Initiative would address that by giving employers a $2,400 tax credit for hiring an unemployed vet, double that if the vet has been out of work for six months or more.

In addition, firms that hire veterans with service-related disabilities would be eligible for a $4,800 tax credit, double that if the "wounded warrior" has been out of work for six months.

Congress managed to contain its enthusiasm for the proposal. Republicans are leery of any program that would be paid for with higher taxes on the wealthy. Democrats are leery of any program that can be hung around their necks as "stimulus spending."

Aside from political and budget considerations, there other obstacles to getting more veterans into the civilian workforce. Foremost is that there aren't many jobs available for anyone, with 4.5 unemployed workers now available for every vacant job.

And while it's true that the military teaches leadership, teamwork and discipline, many of the jobless veterans fall into a demographic category that is having a tough time finding work. Having enlisted out of high school—sometimes because they couldn't find a decent job in a changing economy—they come out of the military at 22 or 23, often with combat experience but not work experience.

In pre-recession, pre-globalization America, they could have expected to move into the construction trades or a manufacturing job. Not these days, not often anyway.

Some 125,000 of these young veterans have military-related disabilities. Some have lost limbs. Others struggle, to a greater or lesser degree, with post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury, the "signature wound" of wars in which roadside bombs are the enemy's weapon of choice.

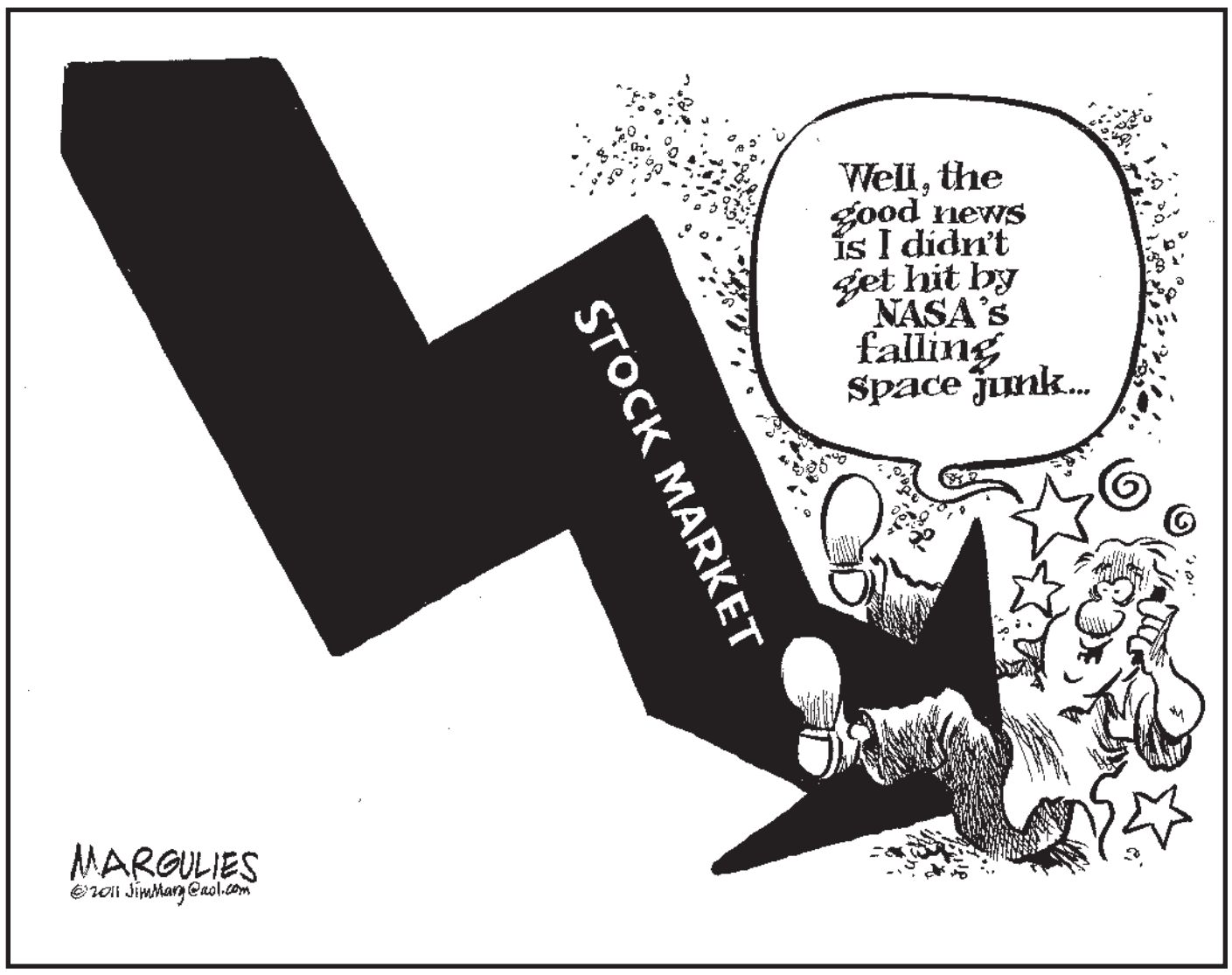
But here's the thing: America didn't go to war after 9/11. These Americans did.

In 2001, there were roughly 42 million Americans between the ages of 18 and 29, a number that has risen slightly every year since. The military recruits about 125,000 people a year, nearly all of them from that demographic.

That means that fewer than 3 percent of the prime military-age population signs up every year. That's less than half of 1 percent of the overall U.S. population. Not all of them were in combat; that chore fell repeatedly to the same Army combat brigades and Marine expeditionary units.

Yes, there's the new GI bill that pays for college tuition. That's excellent. But what of those who can't make it in college? What of the 10,000 post-9/11 vets who are homeless? Talk about a national debt.

This should be the deal: If you fight a war for us, we've got a job for you.



The Mamas and the Papas

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

First day of classes at SVES has parents bringing children to campus, with kindergarten parents tending to mother their kids the most since the pangs of separation are visibly acute. My eldest went to pre-school at barely 2 years old as part of a well-defined care structure in Uptown Chicago while her Papa and Mama went elsewhere.

Daughter Kristina was all tears when she became aware of the impending separation from Dad to an "unknown" environment. Sullen and teary-eyed, she entered a waiting room full of toys. Other children were evidently in a similar situation, dropped off by parents and guardians, received by waiting caretakers. Outside was a one-way mirror where adults can watch the children. I saw my daughter rub the tears off her eyes, scan the room, check out the children and the toys, and immediately parcel the toys to each of the children, reserving the largest and most intriguing one for herself. I had no doubt at that moment that my daughter was instinctively prepared to take care of herself.

Here at Shenyang Aerospace University on the first day of school three weeks ago, the school roads were congested with private cars belonging to parents accompanying their child to the university. A lot are urban dwelling families who followed the government's injunction for them to have only one child.

The phenomenon of a sole child getting the attention of an average of five people has created the image of the tyrant child with the quality of a "brat." A self-centered privileged generation doted on by grannies, parents, an uncle or an aunt, is on center stage, we are warned.

Folks walking around campus on the first week of school included obedient children who allowed Mama and Papa to hold their hands through the process of university reentry. It is the second semester so most had been through the process before but the first-day ritual functioned to allay parents' fears before anything else.

In fact, after sundown, once the parents were gone, classmates who had not seen each other for more than a month eagerly reunited. Dorms shorn of privacy, they turned the low-lit cafeteria after 9pm into coves of tangled embraces where socially acceptable expressions of affection were uninhibitedly displayed!

We run a professional colloquy for teachers where in a survey they expressed topics we might include in our repertoire of conversational offerings. "Parenting" came in as one of the top five preferences.

This did not come as a surprise following Amy Chua's Tiger Mama controversy in the *Wall Street Journal*. Also, there is emerging a realization that the nature of filial relationship is undergoing a rather radical paradigm shift. A recent celebrated case is of a parent suing his son for failing to exercise his filial responsibility of periodic visits!

University teachers are treated as surrogate parents. In our current incarnation, we sport an ash grey longish hairdo affecting a grandfatherly posture, but our wavy Malay mane when coiffed looks too Mozart-y, and when wind-ruffled, approximates Einstein's wiry electrified "Eureka!" hair day. Hardly posing a traditional *lao ye ye,* a student thought we symbolize the free spirit that ordinary folks do not normally display, which we as a foreigner could, and ardently advised that we keep the hair when I hinted that I might bring it to the trimming ministration of the barber's shears.

With a box hat or a cap over a wrap-around golden caftan, we are alarmingly a look-alike to the renegade Libyan Colonel Moammar Muhammad Abu Minyar al-Gaddafi who has yet to be located in the northern deserts of Africa! Will consider the barber's seat!

More importantly, though, is the lesson I learned early that the instinctive capacity to survive and be self-sustaining, self-reliant, and self-confident is born in everyone. The "social face" *Zhongguoren* make, or the "personality" that individuals wear, is our creation in the process of our unfolding, not as an act of attainment. The scientific data shows that at the moment of conception, a person is the ONE out of 200 million sperms embraced by the ovum, which chose out of 200 million possibilities. At life's go-signal, we are already a winner in the biggest lottery of our life, and have exercised a considerable freedom of choice to boot.

In nine months, the sperm-ovum cell creates a sophisticated organism whose depth of mystery, breath of consciousness, and height of greatness we are now just beginning to scratch. Where and when was it that we got the notion that we live life to measure to someone's shallow social norm, to climb into an artificially graded station, or to pass a prejudiced test/exam level? We suffer stratified imposition that requires us to "ascend" in order to matter, when our birth already spelled the fullness of our glory!

But if like a seed, we take the organic view that children are born to grow and bloom out of their nature, we would not be too anxious about nurture save to let everyone grow naturally, for there is immensely too much of our nature to nurture before we even need to worry about what else to add. Mamas and Papas, take heed!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

50 percent criminal

By JIM RAYPHAND
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

A friend of mine tells me the other day that he believes "at least 50 percent of the Chuukese living in the CNMI [and Guam] are criminals." I imagine the man has had some bad experiences with some bad Chuukese and, frankly, he's not alone, but 50 percent? That's a big number. I then made the mistake of posing the question to a room full of goodfellas who, almost simultaneously, disagreed saying that "the number is probably closer to 75 percent"—which makes me think, *with friends like these, who needs enemies…right*?

Truth be told, I wasn't at all surprised…even worse, I wasn't offended—no sense of indignation whatsoever. I guess I'm used to it. Disparaging remarks about Chuukese people (particularly among our fellow islanders) are about as common as jokes about blonds or bad press for politicians. That's the nature of stereotypes—sometimes we don't know whether to laugh or get mad. Either way, they get passed along from person to person like a lit cigarette over one gas drum to another. All it takes are some rogue fumes and (in the spirit of this particular stereotype) the machetes come out.

As far as I care, the machetes are the least of my worries—I'm used to those as well. But, what does concern me is two-fold: (1) that the virtues of an otherwise honorable people/culture have become hidden amidst this mutant version of what our ancestors stood for and (2) that the negativity of those who choose to live down to the stereotypes can overshadow the positive efforts of the rest…the one "bad apple" syndrome, if you will. As if it isn't bad enough that most of us are having to claw our way through every social snake pit known to modern society—due, in large part, to our own doing for sure—we now contend with an ugly stigma that simply is not worthy of the early Chuukese leaders who charted their way into this, the greatest nation on earth. For one thing, the old-timers (at least the ones I knew from the Mortlocks) would sooner starve to death than to ask for a handout of food or anything else for that matter—the true-grit men and women of Chuuk were too proud to beg. For another, it seems that the younger generations of Chuukese are confused about the very broad distinction between being "pwara" (brave) and being "namaike" (acting brave)—they are not one and the same and the traditional men and women of Chuuk frown upon the latter. I could expound further about the modern, warped version of Chuukese customs and some reasons for why they came about (i.e., welfare programs, politics, alcoholism, ignorance, etc., etc.), but the point is simply that all the negativity associated with Chuukese people, while true for so many of us, is absolutely not representative of our people as a whole.

The same could be said for people with disabilities who, perhaps, know more about the stifling impact of stigmas and stereotypes than any other collective group in modern-day society. What may be true for some people with certain disabilities is not necessarily the rule for every person with a disability; in fact, we know with certainty that most individuals with any number of even the most severe disabilities often harbor innate abilities far beyond our wildest dreams. It's only when the dark clouds of abuse, neglect, and discrimination are lifted and the pathways through an appropriate education and other relevant opportunities are made readily available that they are able to showcase these abilities and live as contributing members of their respective communities—without question, the battle begins at home.

By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

If ever there was something holding us all back (as a society and as individuals therein), it's our prejudices/ignorance and the illogical viewpoints it takes to arrive at them. Ironically, disabilities as a human condition do not discriminate on the basis of race/ethnicity, color, gender, sexual orientation, etc.—maybe (for lack of anything better) this could be a new starting point for discussions about our commonalities so that someday we can stand as one people "indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

My friend did not opine further about the Chuukese (except to say that I'm "only half", so I "don't count"), but others in the know would likely tell him to be careful because 50 percent may be criminal, but "all of them know magic" ☺—*believe it… or not*.

For more on discrimination of individuals with disabilities, please feel free to contact the NMPASI Office at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7275 [fax] / 235-7278 [tty] or on-line via www.nmpasi.org.

This article was written in conjunction with NMPASI's Annual Statement of Goals and Priorities No. 1.4.2 for an approximate total cost of $125 to its federal grant programs.

Letters to the Editor

Hope for the best, prepare for the worst

I am not a xenophobic local, but I am beginning to have disdain for those nonresident workers and other outsiders who continue to ask the USCIS for improved status so they could remain in the CNMI. Remember that the CNMI, as part of the United States of America, is covered by U.S. immigration laws. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services already has policies and procedures in place that govern immigration matters. Their job is to uphold and enforce the immigration laws as enacted by Congress. Any deviation or amendments to these laws is the purview of Congress and Congress alone. The final CW rule and regulations have been published and approved by the federal government, mindful of the primary intent of U.S. Public Law 110-229, which is intended to reduce the nonresident worker population in the CNMI to zero in three to five years and not to devise ways to expand or amend the immigration laws as they are now asking for, which is to upgrade or enhance the immigration status of those nonresident workers who have been here for five or more years, who have U.S. citizen children born here, and those spouses of U.S. citizens who cannot qualify through U.S. immigration regulations or may not or could not afford the fees imposed or other requisite qualification.

Realistically, Congress is the only body that can amend or make laws that affect immigration in the United States and its possession. Presently, they are heavily involved in other pressing issues like the depressed U.S. economy, over 9 percent unemployment and their own worries about the hardship faced by the growing number of poor people in America who have lost jobs, growing hunger in their families, and a large number losing their homes due to eviction or foreclosure for nonpayment of rent or mortgages. Would these congressmen or women disregard their suffering constituents and turn their focus to helping the nonresident workers in the CNMI and provide legislation to help the nonresident, non-U.S. citizens in their plight to get improved status so they can remain in the CNMI? I think not. Nonresident workers can only hope for the best. But be prepared for the worst.

The final CW rules and regulations are now published and will be implemented on Nov. 27, 2011. The USCIS will only work with these CW rules and regulations and will not deviate or make exceptions for anyone. After Nov. 27, the time to dream and hope for the best is over and you'd better be prepared for the worst as you head for the airport for your own return trip or deportation back to your country. All nonresident workers and other non-local, non-U.S. citizens must have some legally approved immigration status to remain in the CNMI or be subject to removal or deportation. *It's the law!* If and until the immigration laws are changed by Congress, you must return to where you came from.

For those nonresident who are asking, "Who will take care of my children," the answer is YOU. You, the mother and father who planned to have kids should have also planned for their future. You came to the CNMI to work, with no promise, assurance, or guarantee that you will get enhanced status to remain here. Your children, who became U.S. citizens by virtue of being born in the CNMI, are still your children and are still your primary responsibility. Just because they are U.S. citizens does not mean that the United States is responsible for their care and well-being. You, as parents, are supposed to take care of them. Your children, being U.S. citizens, are entitled to stay here or any U.S. jurisdiction, but you can't. You have to return to your country of origin. The matter of the care and well-being of your children, U.S. citizen or not, remains with you.

Terry Camacho
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Dear Mom

Bon and I are writing this letter to express our deepest gratitude and indescribable love for all the many selfless sacrifices you have made for us.

We suppose that every mother expects to be praised on special occasions, but we wanted to publish this letter and create an occasion to say that we are so blessed to have you as our mom. In fact, we believe that each and every day should be your day, and for that matter, a special day for all mothers.

When you were diagnosed with cancer a year ago and came very close to losing your life, it was traumatic beyond description and plainly unfathomable. How could it be that our wonder-woman of a mother, who never lets the challenges of life beat her down, be on the brink of death? To be admitted to the intensive care unit, have doctors dumbfounded as they fought desperately to sustain your life, to see you pale and in pain, bruised and battered from all the needles, and have to be sent to a foreign country away from loved ones to have a prayer of survival was more than enough to make even the most faithful faint. It was the sight of you lying in that uncomfortable hospital bed, breathing the uncomfortable sterile air, connected to all kinds of foreign contraptions, uneasy with pain, and so utterly dependant that drove us to swallow the harsh reality that we could lose you. When the team of seven specialists from one of Asia's best hospitals gathered to formulate a plan to save your life, we listened and heard the uncertain words leave their mouths, heightening our anxiety and helplessness. We thought dizzily: What was going to happen in the next moment? When would we be returning home? Would we celebrate the holiday with family…with you? How many more months would we live on the ICU floor? Our worried ponderings were always interrupted by a nurse or a beep or buzz from the vital sign monitor.

We thought that maybe it would be easier to run away, to hide from the circumstance, to ignore the desperate situation. But as we looked at you and saw you force a smile to encourage us that everything was going to be okay, even in the midst of all your pain, facing what was at the time certain death, we were reminded of the kind of mother we were blessed with—a fighter.

Almost a year later, six months of chemotherapy, countless more hospitals stays, and 18 sessions of radiation treatment, we thank God that we can faithfully proclaim that you are in remission. Whoever denies the power of prayer and a faithful fighting spirit has not met you, our wonderful mother, Patricia Aguon-Cruz.

Even when you were in pain, fighting what seemed to be a losing battle, we, your children were at the forefront of your mind. We smile as we think about how you pestered us about what we needed to do for school and our careers and how we needed to go about doing it when the last thing on our minds was any of that. *Ai Adai* mom! That is your heart, and we would not change it for the world.

Thank you for your unconditional love. Thank you for believing in us, even when we don't believe in ourselves. Thank you for comforting us when we get knocked down and for encouraging us to get up and fight on. Thank you for giving us nothing short of your absolute best. We owe our success to you.

In Jeremiah 29:11, our heavenly Father declares that He knows the plans He has for us, plans to prosper us and not to harm us, plans to give us hope and a future. We believe without a doubt that your love was God's gift of prosperity, and we have faith beyond any doubt that your fighting spirit was God's gift of hope to us.

You are a champion among women and, as God put it, beautifully and wonderfully made. Your life is our occasion to celebrate. We love you!

Your son and daughter,

Bobby and Bonny Cruz
via email

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

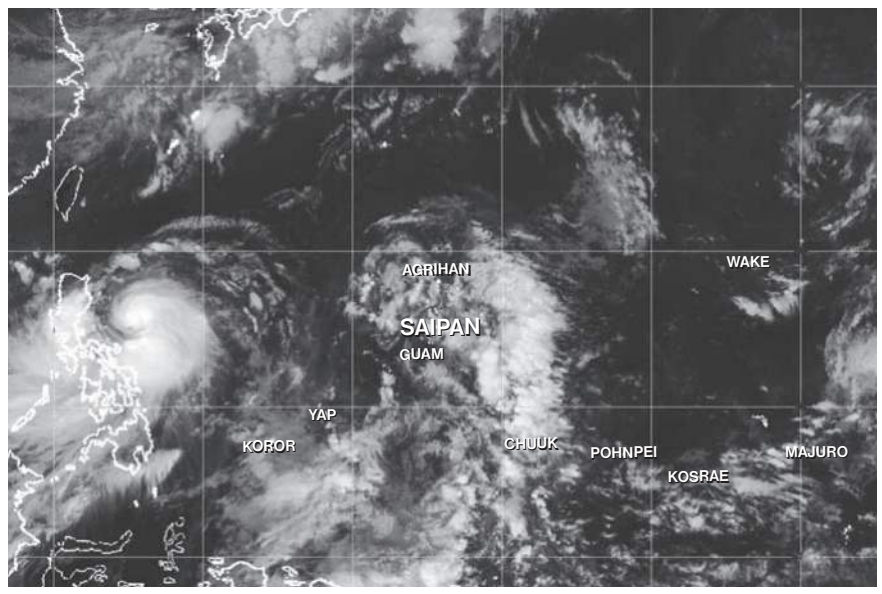
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79
Palau	Rain	▲84	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲84	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲82	▼76
Pohnpei	Rain	▲84	▼74
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼50
Beijing	Showers	▲71	▼58
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲91	▼81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲88	▼76
London	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼59
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼62
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲70	▼55
Miami	Showers	▲88	▼77
New York	Thundershowers	▲74	▼67
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼65
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼58
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼67
Rome	Sunny	▲86	▼62
Salem	Showers	▲70	▼51
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼61
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼57
Tokyo	Sunny	▲76	▼64
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲77	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with Typhoon Nesat (20W) well northwest of Koror are found west of a line from 20N131E to 17N136E to 11N132E. Similar conditions are found farther south over Koror, west of a line from 10N134E to 6N138E to 3N133E. A surface trough extends from 15N140E through a weak circulation northwest of Saipan near 16N143E to end near 21N148E. An upper-level low is centered east of Saipan near 14N147E. These features are combining to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across the Marianas but north of Guam within an area bounded by a line from 20N145E to 18N150E to 9N150E to 16N141E back to 20N145E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between Yap and Chuuk south of a line from 11N140E to 10N148E. A surface trough west of pohnpei extends from 3N156E to 10N156E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Pohnpei and Kosrae south of a line from 10N155E to 10N164E. Another surface trough found east of Majuro extends from 5N174E to 11N177E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found east of a line from 7N172E to 12N175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:04 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
6:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
1:22 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
7:20 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM
Friday	6:07 AM	6:08 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:08 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:29 AM	5:47 PM
Wednesday	6:31 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	7:34 AM	7:27 PM
Friday	8:38 AM	8:21 PM
Saturday	9:42 AM	9:19 PM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09314	2:20am	2:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C09315	4:25am	5:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C09315	4:25am	6:00am	1, 5 via ROP
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K386	5:50pm	6:40pm	4, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily
5K382	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)			
5K212	8:20am	10:55am	3, 4, 7
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:05am	8:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/191	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	9:55pm	Daily via NRT
C09313/183	7:55am	8:40pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09603/183	3:05pm	8:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7 via GUM
C09603/193	3:05pm	10:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
5K168	9:45am	12:55pm	1, 5
C09603/179	3:05pm	9:25pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C09315	5:30am	6:00am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C09314	3:20am	3:55am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C09314	2:20am	3:55am	1, 5 via ROP
C09316	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
5K387	6:30am	7:20am	3, 7
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
5K389	8:10am	9:00am	1, 5
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN			
5K213	11:55am	4:25pm	3, 4, 7
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:05pm	12:45am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	4, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ704/603	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:45am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0192/9596	9:55pm	7:25am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C0184/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
5K169	2:20pm	9:25pm	1, 5
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:25am+1	5 via GUM
C0180/9596	10:30pm	7:50am+1	1 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

The upside of economic worries: Lower gas prices

NEW YORK (AP)—Soaring gasoline prices are in the rearview mirror.

For the first time in months, retail gasoline prices have fallen below $3 a gallon in places, including parts of Michigan, Missouri and Texas. And the relief is likely to spread thanks to a sharp decline in crude-oil prices.

The national average for regular unleaded gasoline is $3.51 per gallon, down from a high of $3.98 in early May. Last week's plunge in oil prices could push the average to $3.25 per gallon by November, analysts say.

Economist Philip Verleger equates it to "a stimulus program for consumers," leaving them more money for clothes, dinners out and movies. Over a year, a 50 cents-per-gallon drop in gasoline prices would add roughly $70 billion to the U.S. economy.

Arthur De Villar, a 48-year-old safety inspector for the Federal Aviation Administration, paid $2.96 for gasoline near his home in Manchester, Mo., a suburb of St. Louis— and he recently replaced his SUV with a four-door sedan.

With three boys at home between the ages of 11 and 14, the money De Villar saves on gas still gets spent. But it goes to the amusement park, a Cardinals baseball game or the movie theater.

"It's far better to be able to put (the money) anywhere other than in the gas tank," he says.

Prices for oil, gasoline and other commodities dove last week along with world stock markets over concerns the global economy is headed for another recession. When economies slow, demand for gasoline, diesel and jet fuel falls as drivers cut back on trips, shippers move fewer goods and vacationers stay closer to home. Oil fell to $79.85 per barrel Friday, a drop of 9 percent for the week. Oil reached a three-year high of $113.93 on April 29.

AP
In this Feb. 24, 2011 file photo, Juan Zuniga gasses up an SUV in Dallas. For the first time in months, retail gasoline prices have fallen below $3 a gallon in places, including parts of Michigan, Missouri and Texas. And the relief is likely to spread thanks to a sharp decline in crude-oil prices.

Economists caution that gasoline savings, while welcome, won't matter much to people if the worst economic fears come to pass.

"Yes it produces some relief, your bill at the gas pump goes down, but it's going down because there are worries that people won't have jobs," says James Hamilton, an economics professor at the University of California, San Diego. "The news has not been good."

And gasoline prices remain historically high. Gasoline has averaged $3.56 this year, the highest yearly average ever. Americans have cut back driving in the face of high prices, but they are likely to spend more on gasoline in 2011 than ever before— close to $490 billion, according to Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at the Oil Price Information Service.

Kloza says the latest drop in prices will stick around through most of the fall. And while that may only add $20 a month to a typical commuter's wallet, drivers say it matters.

Pat Wolf, 60, a retired information technology professional from East Lansing, Mich. responded with a "Holy Mackerel!" when he got a text from his wife Friday morning that said a station nearby was selling gas for $2.98 per gallon.

Wolf said prices in the area were $3.49 earlier in the week and he had no hope that they'd fall below $3. "It's one other thing in the back of your mind if you are deciding whether to buy some gizmo or other," he says.

Aureleano Duran, a house painter in Dallas, gave the cashier at a RaceTrac gas station $55 to fill up his red Dodge pickup Friday night, but the tank began to overflow before he shut off the nozzle— at $49.21. Duran plans to sock away roughly $30 a week in gas savings. "I'm trying not to spend a lot of it," he said. Then he excused himself: "I've got to go get my change."

Gasoline prices have always varied from state to state, but the gap now is especially big. Drivers along the coasts are paying significantly more than drivers in the middle of the country, analysts say. California drivers are paying the highest average price in the lower 48 states, at $3.89 per gallon on Sunday. Missouri drivers are paying the least, $3.21 per gallon, according to AAA, OPIS and Wright Express.

Differences in state taxes explain much of the gap. Another factor is that most of the oil used by refineries on the coasts comes from overseas, making it far more expensive than oil piped to refineries in the middle of the country from places such as North Dakota and Canada. The coastal refineries must compete with the growing economies of Asia for shipments of oil.

Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst at GasBuddy.com, says that while he expects the national average to fall to between $3.25 and $3.50 between now and Thanksgiving, some areas could hit $2.50. He says prices in Lansing, Mich., and St. Louis had fallen below $3 already. A price war between filling stations near Bridge City, Texas, pushed prices to $2.62 last week.

"In some of these areas prices are collapsing," DeHaan says.

The trend could reverse, analysts say, if the world economy does not descend into recession. That's because the growth in oil demand from China and other developing nations will more than make up for falling demand in Europe and the United States.

The investment bank Goldman Sachs forecasts that oil will rise to $120 per barrel within the next six months. That's a jump of 50 percent from last week's closing price of just under $80 per barrel.

"Whatever we see gas prices falling to, it won't be the new normal. It will be a launching pad for winter and spring prices," says Kloza, from Oil Price Information Service.

Bank lobby rejects reopening of Greek rescue deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—The international bank lobbying group that has been leading negotiations on giving debt-ridden Greece easier terms for its bonds on Sunday rejected calls to impose larger losses on private investors.

Forcing private creditors to write down their Greek bond holdings by more than the 21 percent tentatively agreed to in a July deal would quickly cause a "domino effect" that would see the crisis spread to other parts of Europe, warned Josef Ackermann, the outgoing chairman of the Institute of International Finance.

Such a move would ultimately cost taxpayers much more than just bailing out Greece and erode confidence in the euro, said Ackermann, who is also the CEO of Germany's Deutsche Bank, a major lender to Greece.

Germany and other rich eurozone nations have been pushing for a re-negotiation of the July deal, arguing that the economic situation in Greece has significantly deteriorated since then and may require a steeper cut in the country's debt load.

However, Ackermann quickly rejected that push, saying that the agreement was fair and already placed a heavy burden on banks at a time of major market turmoil.

"If we now start reopening this Pandora's box we will lose a lot of time and I'm not sure people would be willing to participate," Ackermann told a news conference on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund.

Under the July deal, Greece is asking banks and other large private investors to swap their existing Greek bonds for ones with longer repayment deadlines, a lower face value or lower interest rates. The IIF says the deal would save Greece some euro54 billion by 2014 and euro135 billion by 2020.

However, most analysts say that those savings are far too small to make Greece's massive debts—which amount to some 160 percent of economic output—sustainable again. At the same time, there have been growing doubts that investors will agree to swap 90 percent of their bond holdings, a minimum threshold that Athens set to make the deal worthwhile.

Getting private creditors to agree to the deal comes at a heavy cost for Greece. Apart from temporarily being rated in "selective default"—a first for a eurozone nation—the country has to spend some euro42 billion on setting up a collateral fund that would secure the remaining value of the bonds.

If at some point Athens decides that a steeper cut in its debt was necessary, that money would go to the bondholders.

"If the July deal goes ahead, Greece would be locked into this perpetually," said Sony Kapoor, managing director of Re-Define, a Brussels-based economic think tank.

Greece has been relying on euro110 billion in rescue loans from other eurozone countries and the International Monetary Fund since May 2010. In July, when it became clear that Athens needed more help, eurozone leaders agreed on a second, euro109 billion bailout, although several aspects of that deal still need to be finalized.

To make the second aid package acceptable for their taxpayers, several rich countries led by Germany pushed for banks and big insurance companies to share some of the pain of bailing out Greece—despite opposition from the European Union and the European Central Bank, the central bank for the 17 nations that use the euro as a common currency.

But since July, the eurozone's debt crisis has significantly worsened, partly because investors now fear that they may also face losses on bonds from already bailed-out Portugal and Ireland as well as struggling Italy and Spain. The Greek economy is now set to shrink 5.3 percent this year, up from a June estimate of a 3.8 percent decline, followed by a further contraction in 2012.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Calif. grocery workers OK deal; strike averted

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After eight months of contract-wrangling and negotiations that dragged past a strike deadline, supermarket workers in Southern California will stay on the job and shoppers won't have to rely on Whole Foods or their corner liquor store for groceries. Members of the region's United Food and Commercial Workers voted to ratify a new contract with three major grocery chains, union local spokeswoman Ellen Anreder said, averting a strike of more than 60,000 workers that could have crippled the industry and left shoppers scrambling. United Food and Commercial Workers local spokeswoman Ellen Anreder said Saturday that after two days of voting, members agreed to a deal struck Monday with Vons, Ralphs and Albertsons. Exact vote totals were not released.

Russia's finance minister to quit over Medvedev

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's finance minister has said he will step down rather than serve under Dmitry Medvedev if the president becomes prime minister next year as planned. Alexei Kudrin has been finance minister since 2000 and his conservative fiscal policies are widely credited with helping Russia weather the 2008-2009 global financial crisis. He is close to Vladimir Putin, the current prime minister, who Saturday announced his intention to return to the presidency next year. Putin said he would then name Medvedev prime minister. Kudrin told reporters from Russia's state news agencies in Washington later Saturday that he would not serve in Medvedev's government because of disagreements over economic policy.

Asia stocks drop amid recession fears, debt crisis

BANGKOK (AP)—Asian stock markets fell Monday as investors worried about Europe's prolonged debt crisis and the possibility of a global recession continued to flee riskier assets. Japan's Nikkei 225 index fell 1.7 percent to 8,419.36, as a stubbornly strong yen weighed on the country's export sector, making its products more expensive overseas. Consumer electronics giants Panasonic Corp. fell 3.8 percent and Sharp Corp. lost 3.6 percent. Isuzu Motors Ltd. tumbled 4.7 percent. South Korea's Kospi index was 0.8 percent lower at 1,684.48. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index fell 0.7 percent to 17,538.43.

Nation

Freed hikers: Iran held us because we're American

NEW YORK (AP)—Two American hikers held for years in an Iranian prison came home Sunday, declaring that they were detained because of their nationality, not because they might have crossed the border from Iraq.

Joshua Fattal and Shane Bauer arrived in New York on Sunday morning, ending their diplomatic and personal ordeal with a sharp rebuke of the country that sentenced each to eight years in jail for espionage and illegally walking into Iran. They say they may never know if they actually stepped across the border while hiking and getting lost.

"From the very start, the only reason we have been held hostage is because we are American," Fattal said at a news conference at a Manhattan hotel. "Iran has always tied our case to its political disputes with the U.S."

The two 29-year-olds were freed last week under a $1 million bail deal and arrived Wednesday in Oman, greeted by relatives and fellow hiker Sarah Shourd, who was released last year.

The men's families said Sunday they don't know who paid the bail.

The men's saga began in July 2009 with what they called a wrong turn into the wrong country. The three say they were hiking together in Iraq's relatively peaceful Kurdish region along the Iran-Iraq border when Iranian guards detained them. They always maintained their innocence, saying they might have accidentally wandered into Iran.

AP
From left, Sarah Shourd, Shane Bauer, and Josh Fattal, stand together after a news conference on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011 in New York.

The two men were convicted of spying last month. Shourd, to whom Bauer proposed marriage while they were imprisoned, was charged but freed last year before any trial.

A beaming Shourd faced reporters and cameras that packed a conference room at Manhattan's Parker Meridien hotel.

"There's a huge burden lifted off of all of our chests—so much joy," she said. "Shane and Josh and I are beginning our lives again, and there are so many new joys that await us; I've never felt as free as I feel today."

But her face darkened when she was asked whether the men had been mistreated in captivity. She said Bauer was beaten and Fattal forced down a flight of stairs.

The men took turns reading statements, surrounded by relatives and Shourd. They didn't take questions from reporters.

Fattal said he wanted to make clear that while he and Bauer "applaud Iranian authorities for finally making the right decision," they "do not deserve undue credit for ending what they had no right and no justification to start in the first place."

The two countries severed diplomatic ties three decades ago during the hostage crisis. Since then, both have tried to limit the other's influence in the Middle East, and the United States and other Western nations see Iran as the greatest nuclear threat in the region.

The hikers' detention, Bauer said, was "never about crossing the unmarked border between Iran and Iraq. We were held because of our nationality."

He said they don't know whether they had even crossed into Iran: "We will probably never know."

The irony of it all, Bauer said, "is that Sarah, Josh and I oppose U.S. policies towards Iran which perpetuate this hostility."

The two also detailed the difficult conditions in the Tehran prison where they were held in near-isolation.

"Many times, too many times, we heard the screams of other prisoners being beaten and there was nothing we could do to help them," Fattal said.

Added Bauer: "How can we forgive the Iranian government when it continues to imprison so many other innocent people and prisoners of conscience?"

They said their phone calls with family members amounted to a total of 15 minutes in two years, and they had to go on repeated hunger strikes to receive letters. Eventually, they were told—falsely—that their families had stopped writing them letters.

"Solitary confinement was the worst experience of all of our lives," Fattal said. "We lived in a world of lies and false hope."

Obama says GOP would 'cripple' America

SEATTLE (AP)—President Barack Obama charged Sunday that the GOP vision of government would "fundamentally cripple America," as he tried out his newly combative message on the liberal West Coast.

Aiming to renew the ardor of Democratic loyalists who have grown increasingly disenchanted with him, the president mixed frontal attacks on Republicans with words of encouragement intended to buck up the faithful as the 2012 campaign revs up.

"From the moment I took office what we've seen is a constant ideological pushback against any kind of sensible reforms that would make our economy work better and give people more opportunity," the president said at an intimate brunch fundraiser at the Medina, Wash., home of former Microsoft executive Jon Shirley.

About 65 guests were paying $35,800 per couple to listen to Obama at the first of seven fundraisers he was holding from Seattle to Hollywood to San Diego on Sunday and Monday. The three-day West Coast swing, ending Tuesday in Denver, offered him the chance to re-engage with some of his most liberal and deep-pocketed supporters.

The trip comes as Obama has shifted from focusing on compromise with Republicans on Capitol Hill to calling out House Speaker John Boehner and others by name. The president has criticized them as obstructionists while demanding their help in passing his $447 billion jobs bill.

The revamped approach is a relief to Democratic activists fed up by what they viewed as the president's ceding of ground to the GOP on tax cuts and other issues while the economy has stalled and unemployment is stuck above 9 percent.

Obama said 2012 would be an especially tough election because people are discouraged and disillusioned with government, but he also said he was determined because so much is at stake.

The GOP alternative, Obama said, is "an approach to government that will fundamentally cripple America in meeting the challenges of the 21st century. And that's not the kind of society that I want to leave to Malia and Sasha."

Obama got a friendly welcome from invited guests at his first stop. But later, liberal activists greeted the president with a demonstration.

"We want to see Obama stand up as strongly as he can to fight for the people of this country who are working out there to make ends meet," said Kathy Cummings, communications director for the Washington State Labor Council. The council helped organize a demonstration outside Seattle's Paramount Theater, the site of an Obama fundraiser with about 1,800 guests. Activists held signs promoting environmental and other causes and urging Obama, "Tax the rich."

Obama and the Republican presidential candidates are working overtime to raise campaign cash ahead of an important Sept. 30 reporting deadline that will give a snapshot of their financial strength. Obama's West Coast visit was heavy on fundraisers: two each in Seattle and the San Francisco area Sunday, followed by one in San Diego on Monday and two in Los Angeles.

He's meeting with the Silicon Valley and Hollywood elite, including an event Sunday night in Atherton, Calif., at the home of Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg.

The expected haul from all seven events: $4 million or more.

Senator: Consider military action against Pakistan

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee said Sunday that the U.S. should consider military action against Pakistan if it continues to support terrorist attacks against American troops in Afghanistan.

"The sovereign nation of Pakistan is engaging in hostile acts against the United States and our ally Afghanistan that must cease, Sen. Lindsey Graham told "Fox News Sunday."

He said if experts decided that the U.S. needs to "elevate its response," he was confident there would be strong bipartisan support in Congress for such action.

Graham did not call for military action but said "all options" should be considered. He said assistance to Pakistan should be reconfigured and that the U.S. should no longer designate an amount of aid for Pakistan but have a more "transactional relationship" with the country.

"They're killing American soldiers," he said. "If they continue to embrace terrorism as a part of their national strategy, we're going to have to put all options on the table, including defending our troops."

In testimony last week to Graham's committee, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, said Pakistan's powerful intelligence agency had backed extremists in planning and executing the assault on the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan and a truck bomb attack that wounded 77 American soldiers. Both occurred this month.

Mullen contended that the Haqqani insurgent network "acts as a veritable arm" of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency as it undermined U.S.-Pakistan relations, already tenuous because of the war in Afghanistan. Pakistan exports violence, Mullen said, and threatens any success in the 10-year-old war.

Graham said Pakistan does cooperate with the U.S. in actions against al-Qaida. But he said the Pakistani military feels threatened by a democracy in Afghanistan and is betting that the Taliban will come back there.

"The best solution is for Pakistan to fight all forms of terrorism, embrace working with us so that we can deal with terrorism along their border, because it is the biggest threat to stability," he said. "But Pakistan is terrorism itself. They have made a tremendous miscalculation."

ACROSS THE NATION

NYPD chief: Police could take down plane if needed

NEW YORK (AP)—The chief of the New York Police Department says city police could take down a plane if necessary. Commissioner Ray Kelly tells CBS' "60 Minutes" that after the Sept. 11 attacks, he decided the city couldn't rely on the federal government alone. He set about creating the NYPD's own counter-terrorism unit. He says the department is prepared for multiple scenarios and could even take down a plane. Kelly didn't divulge details but said "obviously this would be in a very extreme situation."

Drum of cement held mom's remains; husband charged

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—A woman whose remains were found inside a 55-gallon cement-filled drum in her apartment building might have been strangled by her husband, authorities said Sunday. Randy "Amanda" Lehrer was last seen Aug. 17 leaving the diner where she worked, and investigators believe she was killed shortly afterward, Hudson County prosecutor Edward DeFazio told The Jersey Journal. Her husband, Steven Acuna, was charged with her murder and remained jailed Sunday on $1 million bail. Lehrer's remains were found Friday in the basement of the apartment building where the couple and their infant daughter lived.

Man with broken leg survives 4 days in Utah desert

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A North Carolina man crawled four days across the Utah desert after breaking his leg on a solo hike, inspired by a Hollywood movie about a man who cut off his own arm to save himself after being trapped by a boulder in the same canyon. Amos Wayne Richards, 64, of Concord, N.C., is now recovering at home. He said he was inspired to hike Little Blue John Canyon after he saw the Oscar-nominated movie "127 Hours" but fell 10 feet during his trek on Sept. 8. Canyonlands National Park rangers found Richards four days later. Along with the leg injury, he dislocated his shoulder but was able to work it back into place.

Asia

Tourist flight crashes in Nepal, killing 19 aboard

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—A plane carrying tourists to view Mount Everest crashed while attempting to land in Nepal on Sunday, killing all 19 people on board, including 13 foreigners, officials said.

Ten Indians, two Americans and one Japanese were among the victims, Tourism Secretary Ganeshraj Joshi said.

The turboprop plane belonging to Buddha Air was also carrying three Nepalese passengers and three crew members when it crashed in Bisankunarayan village, just a few miles (kilometers) south of the capital, Katmandu.

A witness, Haribol Poudel, told Avenues Television that the plane hit the roof of a house in the village and broke into several pieces. No casualties were reported on the ground.

Poudel said it was foggy and visibility was very low in the mountainous area.

Rewant Kuwar, an official at Katmandu's international airport rescue office, said 18 bodies were pulled out of the plane's wreckage, and another victim died after being rushed to a hospital.

AP

Nepalese rescue workers and civilians gather at the wreckage of a Beechcraft 1900D operated by Buddha Air after it crashed in the mountains outside Bisankunarayan village, just south of Katmandu, Nepal, early Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011.

The two Americans were identified as Andrew Wade and Natalie Neilan, while the Japanese citizen was Toshinori Uejima. Their hometowns and other details were not immediately known.

The Beechcraft 1900D plane—manufactured by Raytheon Aircraft, now known as Hawker Beechcraft—had taken the passengers to view Mount Everest and other peaks on a one-hour "mountain flight" and was returning to Katmandu.

The government ordered an investigation into the crash.

The weather on Sunday morning was foggy and the visibility was poor around Katmandu, according to meteorologist Rajendra Shrestha. The surrounding mountains were enveloped in fog and it was raining at the time of the crash.

The bodies were flown by army helicopter to Katmandu airport and transported to the Tribhuwan University Teaching Hospital for post-mortems.

Relatives of the Nepalese victims waited outside the hospital to claim the bodies, but were told by police that they would only be able to do so on Monday. Most Nepalese believe that people have to be cremated within a day of their deaths.

Officials from the Indian and U.S. embassies visited the hospital but did not speak to media.

Suicide bombing at Indonesian church injures 22

SOLO, Indonesia (AP)—A suicide bomber blew himself up inside an Indonesian church as hundreds of worshippers were filing out after the Sunday service, injuring at least 22 people, police said.

The bomber's mangled body lay at the entrance of the Tenth Bethel Gospel Church. Around him, screaming people were splattered in blood.

Police Chief Gen. Timur Pradopo said the low-intensity device appeared to be attached to the man's stomach.

"We are now waiting for DNA test results to confirm his identity," Pradopo said. "We hope to reveal it soon."

A woman working at an Internet cafe near the church in the Central Java town of Solo said the man had visited her shop an hour before the explosion and browsed websites about al-Qaida and a local Islamist group.

He left a bag behind containing a copy of the Quran, a mask and a cellphone charger, Rina Ristringsih told The Associated Press. She said all of the items had been confiscated by police.

Indonesia, a predominantly Muslim nation of 237 million, has been hit by a string of suicide bombings blamed on the al-Qaida-linked network Jemaah Islamiyah and its offshoots since 2002, when a strike on two Bali nightclubs killed 202 people, most of them foreign tourists.

AP

Indonesian police officer stands guard near an armored vehicle outside a church after an explosion in Solo, Central Java, Indonesia, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011.

Subsequent attacks targeting restaurants and hotels have been far less deadly, however, and the last occurred more than two years ago, thanks in large to a security crackdown that led to the arrests and convictions of dozens of suspects.

But bombings by solo "jihadis" targeting Christians, security officers and Islamic sects deemed blasphemous by hard-liners have continued.

Djoko Suyanto, a top security minister, told reporters that Sunday's attack should serve as a reminder that prospective suicide bombers, some without clear motives, are still out there.

It appeared that the bomber entered the church through a side door, mingled with worshippers, and then, when the service was over, headed out with them.

He detonated his device near the entrance, killing himself and wounding at least 22 people, said Pradopo, the police chief.

"Everyone was screaming," Fani, a witness, told Metro TV. Like many Indonesians she goes by only one name.

"I saw fiery sparks and, near the entrance, a man dead on the ground, his entrails spilling out. People around him were splattered with blood."

Members of the congregation said they did not recognize the bomber.

"He walked about 4 meters (yards) behind me," Abraham, who attended the service, told El Shinta radio. "I believe he was disguised as a churchgoer."

Indonesia is a secular nation with a long history of religious tolerance, but a small extremist fringe has become more vocal—and violent—in recent years.

Critics say President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who relies heavily on Islamic parties in parliament, has remained largely silent as minorities have been attacked by hard-liners or seen their houses of worship torched or closed.

However, he was quick to speak out after Sunday's attack.

"Whoever is behind such violence has to be arrested," he said, adding that neither religious nor ethnic differences can justify such actions. "Crime is crime, terrorism is terrorism."

Yudhoyono said there were indications the assailant may have been linked to a terror network in the West Java town of Cirebon that carried out a suicide attack on a mosque packed with police in April.

Building used by CIA attacked in Afghan capital

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A building used by the CIA in Kabul came under attack Sunday, U.S. and Afghan officials said, the latest in a series of attacks in the Afghan capital.

Afghan authorities said gunfire was heard in the evening near the Ariana Hotel, a building that former U.S. intelligence officials said was the CIA station in Kabul. The CIA occupied the heavily secured building just blocks from the Afghan presidential palace in late 2001 after the U.S.-led invasion that toppled the Taliban.

There was no immediate word on casualties.

A U.S. official confirmed there was an attack on a facility used by American officials in Kabul.

"The situation is fluid, and the investigation is ongoing," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

Officials at the U.S.-led coalition headquarters nearby said they heard the gunfire, but did not have details about the incident.

All the officials in Afghanistan spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The attack came two weeks after militants fired rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles at the U.S. Embassy, NATO headquarters and other buildings, killing seven Afghans. No embassy or NATO staff members were hurt in the 22-hour assault, but accusations over who was responsible have plunged U.S. relations with Pakistan to new lows.

The top U.S. military officer, Adm. Mike Mullen, last week accused Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency of supporting insurgents in planning and executing the Sept. 13 attack as well as a truck bomb days earlier that wounded 77 American troops.

The insurgents, from the Haqqani network, are affiliated with the Taliban and al-Qaida. The group primarily operates in eastern Afghanistan and is often blamed for attacks in Kabul.

Senior Pakistani officials have lashed out against the allegations of support for the Haqqani network, accusing the U.S. of trying to make Pakistan a scapegoat for its troubled war in Afghanistan.

Pakistan also is receiving criticism from Afghanistan.

Afghan defense officials warned Pakistan on Sunday to stop firing rockets and heavy artillery into the northeast of the country or the military will respond with force. Pakistan denied it was responsible.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Heavy rains, floods leave 31 dead in north India

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Officials say monsoon rains caused mud-walled homes to collapse and kill at least 31 people over the weekend in India's most populous state. Rescuers are struggling to reach affected villages in eastern Uttar Pradesh but are being hampered by rains expected to continue another two days. Relief Commissioner K.K. Sinha says 13 people died in Mirzapur district "when the roof of their mud houses collapsed." Jaunpur's additional magistrate P.K. Upadhaya said Monday that many of the 18 killed in his district were in bed and "died in sleep."

Typhoon nears Philippines, shuts schools, flights

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Schools in the Philippine capital have suspended classes and many local flights are canceled as the country's main island braces for heavy rains and winds brought by fast-moving Typhoon Nesat. Forecasters say Nesat will make landfall in eastern Aurora province in the next 24 hours and cross Luzon Island north of Manila with winds of up to 133 miles (215 kilometers) per hour. Heavy downpours and wind on Monday prompted the government to shut schools in Manila while airlines canceled flights to central and eastern parts of the country. The coast guard also grounded inter-island ferries, stranding hundreds of travelers.

China vows probe to defuse violent land protest

BEIJING (AP)—Officials promised an investigation into land sales to defuse days of large, sometimes violent protests by villagers in southern China who say they are being pushed off farmland for property development, state media and local villagers said Sunday. Government officials struck a compromise with leaders from Wukan village on Saturday, promising a full investigation of all land sales if locals would halt the protests, according to a report in the official Southern Daily posted late Saturday on the website of Shanwei city, which oversees Wukan. The strategy appeared to work. While villagers gathered to protest for a fourth day Saturday as negotiations took place, no one congregated to do so as of midday Sunday, said villagers contacted by phone.

World

With UN bid, Abbas rises out of Arafat's shadow

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—President Mahmoud Abbas received a hero's welcome Sunday from thousands of cheering, flag-waving Palestinians, having made a bid for United Nations recognition that appears destined to fail but has allowed him to finally step out of the shadow of his iconic predecessor Yasser Arafat.

The crowd, many of them holding posters of Abbas, repeatedly chanted his name as he spoke. Abbas was uncharacteristically animated, shaking his hands, waving to the audience and charming the crowd with references to "my brothers and sisters."

Abbas call Friday for the U.N. to recognize Palestinian independence has transformed him in the eyes of many Palestinians from gray bureaucrat to champion of their rights. Though Israel and the United States oppose the move and consider it a step back for long-stalled peace talks, it could help Abbas overcome internal struggles and gain the support he will need to get a deal through one day.

In a brief address outside his headquarters in Ramallah, Abbas told the crowd that a "Palestinian Spring" had been born, similar to the mass demonstrations sweeping the region in what has become known as the Arab Spring.

"We have told the world that there is the Arab Spring, but the Palestinian Spring is here," he said. "A popular spring, a populist spring, a spring of peaceful struggle that will reach its goal."

He cautioned that the Palestinians face a "long path" ahead. "There are those who would put out obstacles ... but with your presence they will fall and we will reach our end," he said.

The dynamic public appearance was a noticeable change for the 76-year-old Abbas, who was elected shortly after Arafat's death seven years ago. While Arafat was known for his trademark olive-green military garb and fiery speeches, Abbas favors suits and typically drones on in monotone.

In seeking U.N. recognition, Abbas "moved the feelings and emotions of the ordinary Palestinian," said Mahdi Abdul-Hadi, a respected Palestinian academic in Jerusalem. "He gave the people national pride after they were denied it."

Abbas' calls for nonviolence and his successes in restoring law and order to the West Bank have won him respect in Israel and abroad. But at home, he is often seen as weak and ineffectual in his dealings with Israel and the rival Hamas movement, which seized control of the Gaza Strip from his forces in 2007.

Abdul-Hadi said that at the end of a long career, Abbas is thinking about his legacy and wants to be remembered as the man who led his people to independence. He said it was no accident that on Sunday, Abbas delivered his speech outside the memorial where Arafat is buried.

Abbas has asked the U.N. Security Council to recognize an independent Palestine in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip—areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war. Some 500,000 Jewish settlers now live in the West Bank and east Jerusalem. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005.

Abbas is turning to the United Nations in frustration after nearly two decades of unsuccessful peace efforts that were derailed at various times by violence, indecision and intransigence. Abbas says he will return to the negotiating table only if Israel halts settlement construction and accepts the pre-1967 lines as the basis for talks.

Israel and the U.S. oppose the U.N. bid, saying there is no substitute for direct negotiations. But with Israel continuing to build settlements, Abbas says there is no point in talking.

It is unclear what the U.N. application will actually accomplish.

The U.S., as a member of the Security Council, has already promised to veto the request if the Palestinians can muster the nine votes needed for passage—which itself is far from certain. If that happens, the Palestinians say they will seek enhanced observer status from the General Assembly, as a "nonmember state." Passage is virtually guaranteed, but this would be largely symbolic.

The Palestinians acknowledge that any victory at the U.N. will not change the situation on the ground. But they believe an international stamp of approval of a Palestine in the 1967 lines would bolster their negotiating position in the future. The issue is likely to face weeks, perhaps months, of diplomatic wrangling.

In the meantime, the effort is likely to continue to bolster Abbas' standing at home.

Jamil Rabah, an independent West Bank pollster, said surveys consistently show Abbas to be the most trusted Palestinian leader, with 35 percent support, well ahead of his prime minister, Salam Fayyad, and the leader of the Hamas government in Gaza, Ismail Haniyeh.

He thinks that Abbas' speech Friday at the U.N. will only increase that number.

"It seems his popularity is rising," he said. "The steps he is taking indicate he is brave and strong. They used to say he was an American puppet, and he is showing he is not a puppet."

Increased support could bolster Abbas in his dealings with Hamas. The sides agreed to reconcile in May, but those efforts have deadlocked. Hamas hasn't reacted publicly to Abbas' U.N. speech.

It might also enable him—if peace talks do somehow resume—to more easily rally public support to conduct peace talks that would inevitably include concessions.

Already, the U.N. gambit seems to be increasing his standing in the wider Arab world.

"I have attended all the U.N. General Assembly meetings for the past 33 years but I have never heard clapping that lasted more than or higher than that given to President Mahmoud Abbas, which means Palestine," wrote Jihad al-Khazen, a veteran columnist in the London-based Al-Hayat newspaper.

The international community, meanwhile, is continuing to search for a formula to bring Israel and the Palestinians back to negotiations.

The Quartet of Mideast mediators—the U.S., European Union, Russia and U.N.—on Friday issued a statement calling for a resumption of peace talks without preconditions and a target for a final agreement by the end of 2012.

Israel's foreign minister, Avigdor Lieberman, said Sunday that his government should accept the Quartet proposal. But Abbas signaled it was a nonstarter as long as it doesn't include a settlement freeze.

"We will not accept anything but ... a halt settlement construction completely," he said.

Amid the impasse, both Israeli and Palestinian officials have expressed fears that the tensions could explode into violence. One Palestinian was killed in the West Bank on Friday after a clash between settlers and villagers.

On Sunday, residents in the same village, Qusra, found 400 olive trees uprooted or destroyed. They blamed residents of a nearby hardline settlement.

Farmer Ayman Odeh said the trees were laden with ripe olives—an important cash crop for the village. "Imagine how long we worked on those trees, to see them broken now," Odeh said.

Extremist settlers frequently destroy Palestinian-owned olive trees to protest what they feel is unfair treatment by the Israeli government.

AP

Palestinians hold pictures of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at the government compound, in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011.

Gadhafi gunmen cross border from Algeria to Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Gunmen loyal to Moammar Gadhafi have crossed the Libyan border from Algeria and attacked revolutionary forces in a town near the frontier, killing six people, officials said Sunday.

The cross-border attack on Saturday shows loyalist forces have managed to escape Libya and regroup and collect arms, bolstering fears the North African nation could face a protracted insurgency.

Fighters who took up arms against Gadhafi have seized Tripoli and have gained control of the rest of the country, but they are still battling forces loyal to the ousted regime on several fronts.

Libya officials also announced on Sunday the discovery of a mass grave believed to hold the remains of 1,270 inmates killed by Gadhafi's regime in a 1996 prison massacre. The site— a desert field scattered with bone fragments—was found outside the walls of Tripoli's Abu Salim prison, where the victims were killed on June 26, 1996, after protesting conditions at the facility. A demonstration by women demanding justice for the victims of that prison massacre was one of the things that touched off the uprising against Gadhafi in February.

A Tripoli military spokesman, Khalid al-Sharif, said authorities found the site after getting information from witnesses and former security guards who had been captured after the capital fell. Officials will ask for international assistance in excavating and identifying the remains because the Libyans don't have sufficient expertise and equipment to test the DNA, he said.

Libyans are eager for those who committed crimes under the old regime to face justice and have been moving forward with efforts to account for the past even as fighting continues in parts of the country.

WORLD BRIEFS

Saudi women get right to vote, but can't drive yet

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah, considered a reformer by the standards of his own ultraconservative kingdom, decreed on Sunday that women will for the first time have the right to vote and run in local elections due in 2015. It is a "Saudi Spring" of sorts. For the nation's women, it is a giant leap forward, though they remain unable to serve as Cabinet ministers, drive or travel abroad without permission from a male guardian. Saudi women bear the brunt of their nation's deeply conservative values, often finding themselves the target of the unwanted attention of the kingdom's intrusive religious police, who enforce a rigid interpretation of Islamic Shariah law on the streets and public places like shopping malls and university campuses.

Jamaica's PM announces he will step down

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Jamaica's governing party announced Sunday that Prime Minister Bruce Golding will step down as leader in the coming weeks, possibly averting a rebellion from ruling party members that could have led to his ouster. Golding will resign once a new leader of the Jamaica Labor Party is elected. The party's leader automatically becomes the prime minister. The announcement was made in a brief statement from the party, which said Golding informed its central executive committee of his decision at a quarterly meeting in the capital of Kingston. The 63-year-old Golding is a veteran lawmaker who was expected to lead his party into the 2012 general elections.

Spain's Catalonia bids farewell to bullfighting

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)—Matadors drove the killing sword into bulls for the last time Sunday in Spain's powerful northeastern region of Catalonia in an emotive farewell fight before a polemical regional ban on the country's emblematic tradition takes effect. Three of Spain's top bullfighters, including No. 1 Jose Tomas, starred in the sold-out show at Barcelona's 20,000-seat Monumental ring. Catalan bullfighter Serafin Marin closed the fight killing the last of six bulls to great applause. Many fans then invaded the ring to grab handfuls of sand to keep as souvenirs. The bullfighters were later carried shoulder high from the ring into the streets outside the bullring while the crowd chanted slogans in favor of freedom and against the prohibition.

Focus

The Palestinians

For more than 60 years, the Palestinians – Arabs from historic Palestine (now Israel) – have been trying to create a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. They have been stymied by continuous conflict with Israel and disputes over the status of Palestinians who live in exile. A look at who the Palestinians are and how their current situation evolved:

A brief modern history of Palestine

1920
• After the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in World War I, Palestine, which had been under Turkish control, came under British mandate

1947
• After World War II, when thousands of Jews arrived from refugee camps in Europe, the U.N. proposed separate Jewish and Arab states; the British withdrew

1948-49
• Israel declared its independence, and the Arabs attacked; the war that followed in 1948 left Palestine partitioned among Israel, Trans-Jordan and Egypt; more than two-thirds of the Arab population fled

1950-66
• The Palestinians regrouped in the West Bank (run by Jordan), Gaza (run by Egypt) and refugee camps around the Middle East; the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), which now represents Palestinians, began to emerge

1967-92
• In the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel captured the West Bank and Gaza, which it still occupies; the Palestinians then rose up violently against Israeli occupation in what's called the first intifada, 1987-1993

1993
• In 1993, the PLO signed the Oslo Accords with Israel, establishing the Palestinian National Authority to run parts of West Bank and Gaza

1994-present
• Failure to achieve independence led to the second intifada, 2000-2005

• Until 2006, when the Islamist Hamas movement won a majority in the legislative council, the Authority was run by the more moderate Fatah faction of the PLO; in 2007, Hamas took control of Gaza and the two Palestinian Authority areas are now run by separate factions

• Almost half the Palestinians in the two areas live in poverty and depend on international aid

Israel's role

• Israel and Hamas, which had once vowed to destroy Israel, refuse to deal with one another; negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians have broken down often

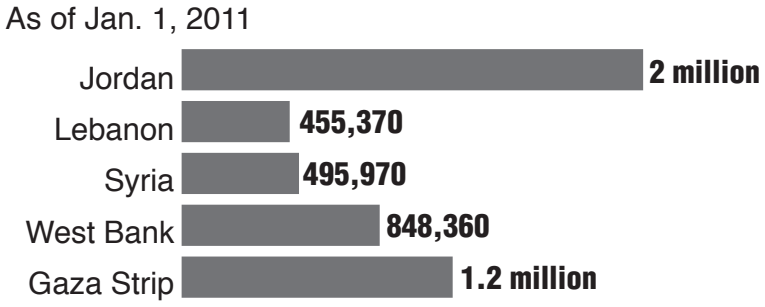
• Israel maintains a blockade along Gaza's coast, controls all bypass roads from the territories into Israel where many Palestinians work, has built settlements that it controls in the West Bank and makes incursions into the areas against armed groups

Palestinians inside and outside the territories

Of the world's more than 10 million Palestinians, only about 4.3 million live in historic Palestine, and many of them are registered with the U.N. as refugees or the descendants of refugees of the 1948 war

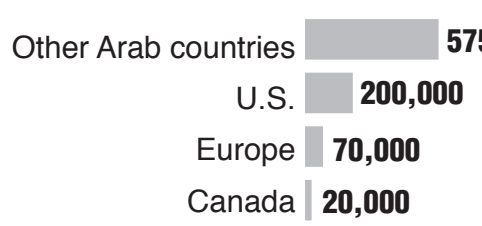
Registered refugees

As of Jan. 1, 2011



Living elsewhere

2010 estimates



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Source: U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees, Palestinian Liberation Organization, Amnesty International, BBC, Le Monde, ESRI, Graphic: Pat Carr

Palestinians' statehood bid

By EDMUND SANDERS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

JERUSALEM—The Palestinians on Friday asked the United Nations to admit them as a member nation. Here are answers to some of the questions arising from their bid:

Question: Why are the Palestinians turning to the United Nations and what do they hope to achieve?

Answer: After nearly 20 years of failed peace talks, the Palestinians say they hope their application for U.N. membership will put the Mideast conflict back atop the international agenda, break the deadlock in U.S.-brokered negotiations by increasing pressure on Israel and give their drive for statehood a boost. They are frustrated by what they perceive as a U.S. bias toward Israel and hope that the international community will set down new parameters for negotiations, such as endorsing the concept of using 1967 borders as a baseline for a new Palestinian state and declaring East Jerusalem its capital. They say direct talks with the current Israeli government are futile because Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu refuses to pick up where the last round of talks ended.

Q: Would success at the U.N. formally create a new state of Palestine?

A: No. Palestinians declared their statehood in 1988 and several nations have formally recognized it. But the U.N. does not recognize states. Only other states do that. Still, if the U.N. accepted Palestine as a member state or if it upgrades the Palestinians' current observer status from nonmember "entity" to nonmember "state," it would serve as a de facto recognition of their statehood.

Q: Why is Israel opposed?

A: Though the Israeli government has endorsed the two-state solution, it sees this move as an end run around direct peace talks. Israel says Palestinians want to avoid difficult negotiations and win concessions from the international community without having to give much in return. Israel says such a unilateral move would poison the already tense atmosphere and make future compromises harder. Even a nonbinding U.N. resolution in the General Assembly that endorsed, for example, the 1967 borders or East Jerusalem as a Palestinian capital would carry considerable weight in talks. Palestinian leaders would find it difficult to accept anything less.

Q: What's the U.S. position?

A: The Obama administration agrees that peace talks are the only way to resolve the conflict and has vowed to defeat the Palestinian application for full membership at the Security Council, which must approve new members and where the U.S. enjoys veto power. The U.S. is hoping to persuade Palestinians to hold off on seeking a vote. At the same time, the U.S. has long supported the Palestinian drive for statehood, believing resolution of the Mideast conflict will ease anti-Western tensions in the Arab world. The U.S. also opposes Israel's construction of settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem as illegitimate and supports using 1967 borders as a starting point, with mutually agreed land swaps.

Q: What happens after the Palestinian application is submitted to the Security Council?

A: A vote is not expected immediately, and the application could be under review for days, weeks or even months. The U.S. and the international community are hoping to use that time to

See STATEHOOD on Next Page

Overdrive

Older drivers' safety gains overtake middle-agers

» But individual skills may be key

By TED GREGORY
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CHICAGO—On one side of the delicate topic of elderly driver competence is Marvin Kruse, 89, who quit after his wife of 51 years was killed nearly 10 years ago when their car was struck as he made a left turn in North Riverside.

On the other side of the debate is Arthur Seagren, 90, who drives his 1995 Buick LeSabre every day—to the West Suburban Senior Center in Bellwood, to grocery stores, to church.

Kruse said older drivers can't detect their eroding skills and should relinquish the car keys when they hit 80. Seagren maintains that older drivers are more experienced and careful and that driving privileges for the elderly should be based on testing and on an individual's driving history.

The truth is that they both may be right.

The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety reports that in the last decade elderly drivers reduced their involvement in fatal and nonfatal crashes by a greater rate than middle-age drivers. But older drivers are still more likely to die in police-reported fatal crashes, and insurance collision claims suggest that drivers over the age of 70 are lagging behind overall driver safety gains, the institute reports.

Drivers of all ages recorded an 11 percent drop in fatal crashes between 1997 and 2008, according to a report by Insurance Institute researchers Ivan Cheung and Anne McCartt. But each of three groups of older drivers—ranging from 70 to 80 and older—had greater reductions than drivers in the 35-to-54-year-old age group, the research showed.

MCT

Harriet Tiahnybik, of Lincolnwood, looks in her driver's side mirror as public service representative Charlie Sokolow does a safety check on the car before she takes her drivers test at the State of Illinois Motor Vehicle Facilities in Chicago, Sept. 14, 2011.

The most dramatic decline in the fatal crash rate, the report stated last year, was the rapid and consistent decline for the oldest drivers, those 80 and older. Fatal crashes in that group, the report said, fell by almost half from about 38 fatal crashes per 100,000 drivers in 1997 to about 20 crashes in 2008.

Precisely why fewer older drivers are dying, getting injured or are otherwise involved in car crashes remains a mystery, McCartt said during a recent discussion of the report's conclusions.

"It's very hard to pin down," she said. This generation of older folks may be in better physical condition than previous generations and benefit from technological advances in auto safety and emergency medical care, McCartt said.

They're more affluent, may drive on less-risky roads and may be more likely to "self-restrict" their driving as they age, she added.

"My personal theory," she said, "is that being old just isn't what it used to be, and that includes being in better health. But you have to be careful not to overgeneralize. The bottom line is we're not sure why."

The drop in elderly fatalities is particularly significant, considering that today's drivers 70 and older keep their licenses longer, drive more miles and are a larger percentage of the population than that age group in past years, experts say. The Insurance Institute states that 22 million licensed drivers age 70 and older were on the roads in 2008, compared with slightly less than 18 million in 1997.

The encouraging picture gets a little murkier when researchers examined insurance collision claims, considered a more comprehensive barometer than police-reported fatal and nonfatal crashes.

Middle-age drivers experienced a 9 percent decline in insurance collision claims per 1,000 insured vehicles from 1997-2006, the Insurance Institute reports. The drop for drivers 70 and older during that time was 5-7 percent, the Institute reported in 2009, the most recent data available.

In addition, the rate of all crashes per mile sharply increases after age 80, the institute reported.

All those statistics indicate the issue of elderly driver competence is "more nuanced," said McCartt, senior vice president for research at the institute in Arlington, Va. "I think we all have to acknowledge that as we get older, there are certain impairments that increase, and I don't think we should minimize that. But I think it is very individualized."

That individualization emerged on a drizzly Wednesday morning at the Illinois Secretary of State driver's license facility in Chicago's Jefferson Park neighborhood. Esther Zevin, 83 and Harriet Tiahnybik, who identified herself as "an octogenarian," took their driving tests.

Zevin passed. Tiahnybik did not.

"I don't think the fact that you're 85 years old means that you have impairments that should keep you from driving," said Zevin, of Chicago. "Some 25-year-olds shouldn't be driving."

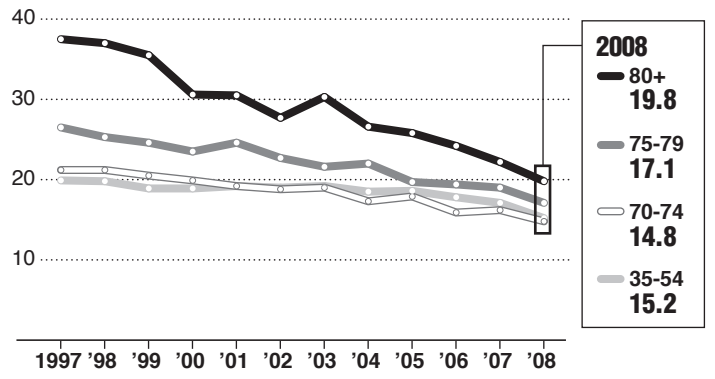
Like other older drivers, Zevin said she is a more cautious but still confident motorist. She won't drive in snow, heavy rain or icy conditions, she said.

"We're more careful because we say to ourselves, 'OK, I'm 83. I better be more careful,' " Zevin said. "The age scares us."

Senior driver fatalities decline

As with drivers in other adult age groups, the number of fatal crashes involving the elderly has dropped markedly.

U.S. fatal passenger vehicle crashes per 100,000 licensed drivers, by driver age group



Source: U.S. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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WARNING SIGNS

Deciding to limit the driving of an elderly motorist can be fraught with emotion.

AARP has come up with 10 warning signs that indicate it's time to curtail or stop driving entirely:

- Almost crashing, with frequent "close calls."
- Finding dents and scrapes on the car, fences, mailboxes, garage doors, curbs, or the like.
- Getting lost.
- Having trouble seeing or following traffic signals, road signs and pavement markings.
- Responding more slowly to unexpected situations, or having trouble moving your foot from the gas to the brake pedal; confusing the two pedals.
- Misjudging gaps in traffic at intersections and on highway entrance and exit ramps.
- Experiencing road rage or having other drivers frequently honk at you.
- Easily becoming distracted or having difficulty concentrating while driving.
- Having a hard time turning around to check over your shoulder while backing up or changing lanes.
- Receiving traffic tickets or warnings from traffic or law enforcement officers in the last year or two.

The organization suggests registering elderly motorists for a driver improvement course if they display "one or more of these cautionary signs."

For more information, visit www.aarp.org and search for "10 signs to limit driving."

STATEHOOD

From Page 17

restart peace talks.

Q: What are the chances that negotiations will resume?

A: Slim, but U.S. officials remain hopeful. Distrust between Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Netanyahu is high, and neither side has budged regarding talks for the last year. Before returning to talks, Abbas wants Israel to halt settlement construction and resume negotiations based on the 1967 lines with land swaps.

Netanyahu has rejected both demands, though he agreed last year to a temporary settlement moratorium. That led to short-lived talks that the Palestinians walked away from once Israel resumed construction. Both men face considerable pressure from their constituencies to stick to their positions. Yet international diplomats say the U.N. bid may soften their positions.

Q: What if the Palestinians decide to turn to the U.N. General Assembly?

A: That could increase the stakes. Any such resolution is likely to pass the assembly because Palestinians enjoy strong support there and the U.S. does not wield a veto in that body. The Palestinians have said they might seek to upgrade their status to something similar to that of the Vatican, which could give them access to U.N.-chartered entities such as the International Criminal Court. Israel has warned that any attempt to bring a war crimes case against it in the court would spell the end of talks. Europeans are working to craft a resolution that would upgrade Palestinians' status, but deny them access to the ICC.

An oblivious radar detector

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

QUESTION: I was given a radar detector as a present, and I have been using it, but I still got a speeding ticket, and I am now wondering if it even works.—Bradley, Hialeah, Fla.

ANSWER: It's probably working fine, but even the best detector isn't infallible. Patrol officers often leave their radar units on, and at relatively high power, while they go about other business, which is probably not specifically targeting speeders. Those signals you can pick up at a distance and slow down. But a savvy traffic officer running a dedicated speed trap with an "instant on" radar can fool you, unless you pick up a radar signal from the officer checking the speed of a vehicle in front of you. If you don't pick up a signal from the officer checking another car, the signal your detector picks up is likely the one directed at you, and it's too late. That is probably what happened.

If the officer is using laser — and most newer radar detectors read lasers, too — your chances are even worse, because a radar beam is often wide enough to extend back to cars behind the one the officer is checking, but laser beams are typically not. If the laser warning goes off on your detector, and you are speeding, it's probably telling you to go ahead and pull over. Be aware too, though, that detectors range in price from about $40 to over $400, and you get what you pay for.

Q: My cousin bought a new car and I was amazed it did not even have one of those little spare tires, but just a can of goop and an inflator. Are spare tires a thing of the past? And if so, why?—L.W., The Villages, Fla.

A: Real spare tires are fast disappearing, and even the little temporary spares may be, too. Consumer Reports says that of the cars they have tested since 2005, just 16 percent had a real spare, 75 percent had a temporary spare, 4.5 percent had "run flat" tires, and 4.5 percent had just the sealant goop and the inflator. Why? Cost, of course, though I think most of us would cheerfully pay a little more for a real spare. Manufacturers claim it is also a packaging and weight issue, but there used to be plenty of tiny cars — original Volkswagen Beetles, for instance — that had real spares.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel in Florida. *Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.*

Life & Style

Diana Nyad: Ending swim was 'huge disappointment'

By KELLI KENNEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI (AP)—Marathon swimmer Diana Nyad spent more than 40 hours in the shark-filled waters between Cuba and the Florida Keys, climbing into a boat only to be treated for searing welts left by Portuguese man o' war stings. Left swollen and red, Nyad had no choice but to end her trek early when medics warned another sting could be deadly.

The 62-year-old soldiered on for a time, cutting eye and mouth holes into a cap she wore over her face to protect against future stings. She surpassed 100,000 strokes, but the stings—which team members said left what looked like branding marks from the jellyfish-like creatures' tentacles—were too much of a risk.

"I trained this hard for this big dream I had for so many years, and to think these stupid little Portuguese man o' war take it down," Nyad told The Associated Press, just hours after getting out of the water. "It's a huge disappointment."

She said she was in the best shape of her life but was blinded by the stings. Late Sunday morning, she heeded the warnings of experts who told her not to continue another two days in the water.

"You go into convulsions, your spine feels paralyzed. I've had kidney stones. Nothing compares to the pain," Nyad said, wearing loose bandages and rehydrating with water and juice on her boat. "It just took the life force out of me."

Nyad arrived Sunday evening in Key West, where she spoke with reporters. She walked off her boat "Sunluver" wearing a white bathrobe, her face and lips swollen from the stings, and pulled up a sleeve to show a long cross-shaped welt on her right forearm.

"It's such a bitter pill," she said. "I am so capable of that swim. That's the end though."

"Because if it was the weather or Tylenol, but those damned jellyfish," she added.

Nyad said that as she swam, she felt paralysis in her back. She recalled swimming through the two stings, which she described as like something out of a sci-fi movie when the tentacles whipped across her.

"I went through two of them and I kept swimming," said Nyad, who wore long pants and a long-sleeved shirt while swimming. Her clothing covered everything but her hands feet and lips, and she got stung in the lips.

"My lips are like Angelina's," she quipped.

But Nyad said she also took pride in swimming for 40 hours, saying she did much better than in a previous try in August. She said visions of the Florida coastline helped keep her going.

"I pictured it," she said. "I really pictured it. I knew I could do it. I just couldn't get there. I wanted that feeling to be on the beach so badly. I'm just not going to have it."

Her team tentatively scheduled a press conference in Key West for Monday morning.

Nyad was making her second attempt in as many months at the Cuba-Florida crossing, a lifelong dream that she first tried as a 28-year-old back in 1978, when she swam inside a steel shark cage for about 42 hours before ending the attempt. A cageless attempt this past August fell short 29 hours in when, gasping for breath, Nyad threw in the towel after an 11-hour asthma attack she blamed on a bad reaction to a new medicine.

AP

Marathon swimmer Diana Nyad describes how she soldiered on for a time, cutting eye and mouth holes into a cap she wore over her face to protect against future stings at Key West, Fla., Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011.

Australian swimmer Susie Maroney successfully swam the shark-filled waters from Cuba through the Straits and to the Keys in 1997, though she used a cage. Nyad was trying to become the first to finish it without a cage.

Earlier in her latest swim, Nyad received oxygen and a steroid shot from her doctors and was treading water while she recovered from the stings.

After that, her team said in a website update that a so-called "staged swim record" would still be valid as long as she was on the boat only for treatment and not to rest—rather than a nonstop record.

Nyad's website said she spent the night trying to recall favorite songs and thinking upbeat thoughts while slipping through the waters under a nighttime sky bristling with stars and a sliver of a crescent moon.

The swimmer faced other obstacles aside from the man o' war stings. On Saturday, handlers spotted barracudas in the area, and she got a visit from a curious Oceanic white tipped shark that was shooed off by a support diver.

Colin Powell leadership book is due out in 2012

NEW YORK (AP)—Colin Powell's new book is a story of success.

The retired four-star general and former Secretary of State has a deal with HarperCollins for "It Worked for Me: Lessons in Leadership and Life."

According to HarperCollins, the book will include his 13 rules of leadership and "revealing personal stories."

Financial terms were not disclosed. HarperCollins announced Sunday that the book was scheduled for May 2012.

One of Powell's rules, "Get mad, then get over it," will be tested in his book. HarperCollins spokeswoman Tina Andreadis declined to comment on whether Powell would respond to criticisms in recent memoirs by former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld or former Vice President Dick Cheney, both of whom Powell often clashed with while in the George W. Bush administration.

Cheney's "In My Time" noted their differences about the Iraq War and alleged that Powell was reluctant to express himself in Cabinet meetings. Powell has since said that Cheney's book included "cheap shots."

Once considered a presidential contender, Powell wrote a best-selling memoir, "My American Journey," published in 1995. Powell has not written about his years as secretary of state, but was interviewed by Washington Post reporter Karen DeYoung for her 2006 biography, "Soldier: The Life of Colin Powell."

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

†Delia Anne Cabrera Cepeda

Lovingly known as "Del" / "Ding"

Born to life on April 21, 1966

Called to her eternal rest by our Heavenly father on September 16, 2011.

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Children: Cezanne Matise, Christy Lynn, Chloe Jane, Colin John, David Jonathan
Mother: Eugenia Cabrera Cepeda
Brother: Raymond Randy C. Cepeda & Zania Fleming
(Sinahi Ray, Krissy, Kahi)
Sisters: Leonora Lee C. & Felimon K. Camacho
(Wendy Jeanine, Kaitleen Keisey, Leonard Joseph)
Elsie Lynne C. Fejeran & Press M. Camacho
(VJ & Trudy, AJ, Bryanna Lynn, Pressel Jean)
Jordonna Lena C. Cepeda *(Vida-Nekoj Kruzana)*
Godparents: Manuel Sablan, Edith Cruz & Arlene D. Santos
Uncles, Aunties, & Families:
Margarita C. & Pedro W. Torres
Margaret Bertha C. Torres & Mike Sablan and family
Jaquelin T. & Joseph D. Camacho and family
Peter W. II & Trina Dlg. Torres and family
Jesse C. & Gina T. Torres and family
Risha C. Torres & Joseph Lifoifoi II and family
Victorina C. Butteris & †Glenn D. Butteris
Darrin C. Butteris & Doris DLGuerrero and family
Remedios C. & Vicente P. Diaz
Vicente P. Diaz, Jr.
Adrian C. Diaz
Thomas C. Diaz & Chelsey and family
Kekoa C. Diaz
Diana C. & Francisco C. Torres
Pamela C. Torres and family
Jeffrey C. Torres and family
Kolani C. Torres and family
Francisco W. Torres & Germaine Cabrera
Dolores C. & Juan S. Camacho
Leila C. & Dante N. Yumul and family
Peter C. Camacho & Eva Calvo and family
Nasia C. Camacho & Craig S. Sanchez and family
Juan S. Camacho, Jr.
†Juan Celis Cabrera
Rodney C. Cabrera & Naomi Nishimura and family
Rowena C. Cabrera and family
Ignatia C. Cabrera and family
Laura Jean C. Cabrera and family
Juan C. Cabrera Jr. & Jadine Ada
Bernadita C. & Mark I. Palacios
Velma C. Palacios & Joe Santos and family
Marvin C. Palacios and family
Franklin C. Palacios
Mark C. Palacios
Pedro C. & Emerina S. Cabrera
Peoni C. Cabrera and family
Penny Lee C. Cabrera
Victoria Cepeda & Francisco Quitano
Mae Q. & Glenn Dikito and family
William C. & Candy Quitano and family
Pilar Q. & Joseph C. Lizama and family
Manuel C. & Orpha C. Quitano and family
Estella Sablan Cepeda
Brenda Cepeda and family
Victorino S. & Marcelina P. Cepeda
Melvin P. & Eleanor A. Cepeda and family
Frankie P. Cepeda
Dolores A. & Dave Eagle
Melissa A. Manibusan and family
Mark A. Manibusan and family
She will also be missed by: Jose A. & Teresita R. Manalo
Jesse R. & Hagathea P. Manalo
Hiroko & Hirokoni Suzuki
Michiko Ariga
Jae Won & Chang Sook Kim
Mark Oso

In her new life, she now joins her:

Father: Calistro Sablan Cepeda
Brother: Leonard John Cabrera Cepeda
Brother In-law: Vicente Fejeran
Grandparents: Leonardo Camacho & Ignacia Celis Cabrera
Juan Blas Cepeda & Soledad Sablan Cepeda-Aguon
Jose Cruz – Aguon
Aunties: Marina Cepeda, Fermina Cepeda
Uncles: Fernando Sablan Cepeda, Glenn D. Butteris, Juan Celis Cabrera, Jose Celis Cabrera
Cousin: Serafina C. Diaz

Daily Mass of Intention is being offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am. Holy Rosary is being recited at 7:00 p.m. each evening at their residence in As Teo.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, September 28, 2011. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 9:00 a.m. to their residence in As Teo. Upon arrival at the residence, Responso Service will take place at 9:30 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 10:00 am. Public viewing and last respects will immediately follow.

At 1:30 p.m. Our beloved †Del will be taken to Kristo Rai Church in Garapan for the Mass of Christian Burial which will be celebrated at 2:00pm. Interment services will follow immediately at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers. Thank you – Si Yuus Maase

Eugenia Cabrera Cepeda and family
Children of the late †Delia Anne Cabrera Cepeda

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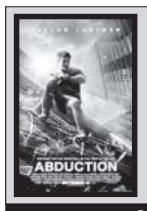

Abduction

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Taylor Lautner, Alfred Molina

Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Twilight series star Taylor Lautner stars in director John Singleton's thriller about a teen who finds himself in mortal danger after realizing that his entire childhood has been built on lies. Realizing that the people who raised him aren't his real parents after stumbling across a childhood photo of himself on a website devoted to missing children, the frightened teen flees for his life as FBI agents Frank Burton (Alfred Molina) and Sandra Burns (Antonique Smith) race to protect him and uncover the truth about his mysterious past.

Dolphin Tales

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd

Children's/family • Rated PG

Killer Elite

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:10	

Robert De Niro, Clive Owen, Jason Statham

Action • Rated R

★ ★ ★

Straw Dogs

Friday		4:20	7:20	10:00
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	10:00
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:20	

James Marsden, Kate Bosworth

Thriller • Rated R

Drive

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:40
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:40
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:30	

Ryan Gosling, Carey Mulligan

Thriller • Rated R

I Don't Know How She Does It

Friday			7:05	9:35
Saturday			7:05	9:35
Sunday			7:05	
Mon thru Thurs			7:05	

Sarah Jessica Parker, Pierce Brosnan

Comedy • Rated PG 13

Contagion

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:25	

Matt Damon, Marion Cottilard

Action • Rated PG 13

Spy Kids: All The Time In The World

Friday		4:05		
Saturday	1:05	4:05		
Sunday	1:05	4:05		
Mon thru Thurs		4:05		

Jessica Alba, Joel McHale

Spy film, Adventure • Rated PG

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Michael Jackson saw salvation in dangerous drug

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson was physically exhausted from a day of grueling rehearsals for his marathon 50-night comeback tour. But his nightly battle with insomnia had just begun. After showering and getting into bed, he called for his "milk," a powerful drug he had been using to escape into unconsciousness.

Jackson saw the anesthetic known as propofol as his salvation. On June 25, 2009, it became the King of Pop's death potion.

How he overdosed in his mansion on a drug intended for hospital use is at the center of the manslaughter trial this week of the doctor he hired to be his highly paid personal physician for the "This is It" tour.

Testimony about the drug is expected to dominate the trial of Dr. Conrad Murray, a Houston cardiologist who has pleaded not guilty to a charge of involuntary manslaughter in Los Angeles Superior Court.

The prosecution claims Murray was grossly negligent in giving Jackson propofol at home without proper lifesaving equipment available and then left the room long enough to find his patient not breathing when he returned.

Murray

His defense team claims the singer, desperate for sleep, swallowed an additional dose of the drug when his doctor was out of the room.

Getting to the truth of it will come down to sometimes technical testimony from an array of medical experts, pathologists and even the police officers and paramedics who inspected Murray's equipment in the bedroom where Jackson went into cardiac arrest.

The defense theory, based on evidence that a trace amount of propofol—.13 milligrams—was found in Jackson's stomach, may be a hard sell.

The drug is administered intravenously, usually during surgery. Scientific witnesses may be asked to explain how it could have gotten into his stomach. Some doctors say ingesting it orally is almost unheard of.

"It's an odd, on-the-edge defense theory," said Dr. Gil Tepper, chief of staff at Miracle Mile Medical Center in Los Angeles. "It would not put you to sleep and it would move through the system very rapidly, causing awful diarrhea."

There are few authoritative studies and few statistics on deaths caused by the drug. It remains uncertain if the judge will allow a Chilean doctor's study of students who voluntarily drank the drug or a study of pigs who received it rectally.

The prosecution has a key expert witness, as well as forensic experts from the Los Angeles County coroner's office who are considered at the top of the field.

The defense boasts an advantage in one of its lawyers, J. Michael Flanagan, who says he is the only California attorney ever to try a propofol death case.

Flanagan represented one of a pair of nurses charged with killing a cancer patient who died after propofol was allegedly given without proper authorization by an anesthesiologist. Flanagan's client was acquitted and the other nurse pleaded no contest to a lesser charge.

Abuse of the drug is said to occur among medical professionals but rarely among patients.

In anesthesia, propofol is known as something of a wonder drug. Tepper said it's ideal for short term procedures such as colonoscopies or cataract surgery. Patients report feeling energized when they come out of it and there is no grogginess.

First lady, TV show bring attention to veterans

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michelle Obama found an unusual ally—reality TV—in her effort to bring attention to the needs of military families.

The first lady, appearing Sunday on the two-part season premiere of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," says the program was the right platform for the cause.

"We live in a media age, and one of the things we still share is our love of television" and the stories it can tell so effectively, Obama said. "We thought this was an extraordinary venue to highlight the struggles and challenges and triumphs of a special family."

Barbara Marshall of Fayetteville, North Carolina, who served in the Navy for 15 years, was dismayed by the number of homeless female veterans and established Steps-N-Stages Jubilee House to provide shelter, counseling and other aid. When the house grew cramped and inadequate, "Extreme Makeover" and the first lady stepped in.

AP

In this image released by ABC, first lady Michelle Obama, left, embraces host Ty Pennington during a taping of a two-part premiere of the home makeover series, "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," in Washington.

She joined with series host Ty Pennington, a local builder and community volunteers on the Jubilee House project and was on hand at the unveiling to surprise Marshall.

The episode focuses on a "powerful story, powerful woman, powerful group of women who are coming together and helping one another. So we're pretty excited about this as a vehicle for telling their story," Obama said.

Marshall is evidence that many military families who face their own challenges "still find ways to serve others," Obama said.

The show should also carry the message that strong, independent veterans might not ask for help and seek assistance, she said. Obama said she hadn't seen the program in its finished version.

"So it's incumbent upon us to not make them ask for help. And, hopefully, by watching this show, viewers will get some ideas in their heads of how they can come together, whether it's as individuals, or as church groups, or as school groups, or as teachers or as employers" and find ways to help military families, she said.

The first lady is also seen on more familiar ground in the show, giving Pennington a tour of the White House grounds.

She and Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, help lead Joining Forces, an initiative intended to increase public awareness and support of families of the men and women serving in the military.

'Lion King' chases off Brad Pitt to remain No. 1

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Brad Pitt was unable to put the cat out of first place at the weekend box office.

Walt Disney's "The Lion King" reissue was No. 1 for the second-straight weekend with $22.1 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. That puts it just ahead of Pitt's baseball drama "Moneyball," a Sony Pictures release that opened at No. 2 with $20.6 million.

Debuting closely behind at No. 3 was the Warner Bros. family film "Dolphin Tale" with $20.3 million. "Dolphin Tale" stars Harry Connick Jr., Ashley Judd and Morgan Freeman.

The 3-D reissue of 1994's "The Lion King" has taken in $61.7 million since opening the previous weekend to a much bigger audience than expected. That's on top of nearly $800 million worldwide the movie made in its original run and a 2002 re-release.

"Twilight" co-star Taylor Lautner's action tale "Abduction" opened at No. 4 with $11.2 million. The Lionsgate release casts Lautner as a teen hurtled into a world of espionage as he tries to uncover the mystery of his past.

Another action thriller, Open Road Films' "Killer Elite," debuted at No. 5 with $9.5 million. The movie stars Jason Statham, Robert De Niro and Clive Owen as special-ops assassins caught up in a global revenge scheme.

"Dolphin Tale" managed a solid start despite unexpected competition for family audiences from "The Lion King." Based on a true story, "Dolphin Tale" centers on a group of strangers who come together to save an injured dolphin.

1. **"The Lion King,"** $22.1 million ($1.9 million international).
2. **"Moneyball,"** $20.6 million.
3. **"Dolphin Tale,"** $20.3 million.
4. **"Abduction,"** $11.2 million.
5. **"Killer Elite,"** $9.5 million.
6. **"Contagion,"** $8.6 million.
7. **"Drive,"** $5.8 million.
8. **"The Help,"** $4.4 million ($1.1 million international).
9. **"Straw Dogs,"** $2.1 million.
10. **"I Don't Know How She Does It,"** $2.05 million.

Hollywood's overall revenues came in at $122 million, up 21 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps" led with $19 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

"This is one of the strongest September weekends I've ever seen," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "'Lion King' got people in the mood to go back to movies, especially the family audience, and look at the combination of that one and `Dolphin Tale.' It shows that family audiences are willing to go to the movies whether it's summer or fall."

'SNL' opens with a record, new ice cream proposal

NEW YORK (AP)—"Saturday Night Live" opened its 37th season with a disputed hosting record and a defense of the new controversial Ben & Jerry's ice cream flavor.

Alec Baldwin, hosting for the 16th time, staked his claim to the hosting record Saturday night. His friend Steve Martin, who formerly tied for the record with Baldwin, made sure Baldwin's accomplishment was legitimate by conducting a drug test, overseen by alleged expert Seth Rogen.

Baldwin also responded to protests of the new Ben & Jerry's flavor, Schweddy Balls, named after a late '90s sketch featuring Baldwin. In his monologue, Baldwin said there was a new flavor being released for the flavor's critics: "Go Fudge Yourself." A group of mothers, One Million Moms, has threatened to boycott the ice cream maker.

Baldwin didn't use the opportunity to criticize Fox, which pulled a joke of his at last Sunday's Emmy Awards. His taped segment made light of the hacking scandal in Britain involving the new-defunct News of the World tabloid. Both Fox, which broadcast the awards, and News of the World are owned by News Corp.

Instead, Baldwin, a famed Democrat, played Texas governor and Republican presidential candidate Rick Perry. He also performed as Tony Bennett and Al Pacino, as if he were auditioning for "Top Gun."

Musical guest Radiohead performed.

Presidential putting pals: Obama, Clinton golf

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Maryland (AP)—President Barack Obama was joined by former President Bill Clinton on the golf course Saturday, in a friendly contest of first duffers who've known the pressures of office and the joys of relieving them on the links.

The two teed off on a cloudy afternoon at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington and finished up just over four hours later.

On the first hole, photographers got a brief glimpse of the two: Obama in khakis and a dark golf shirt, Clinton in black slacks and bright red shirt.

The foursome included Obama's chief of staff, William Daley, and longtime Clinton adviser Doug Band.

The White House declined to say how the outing came about—or what the scores were. But afterward, a joint statement from their spokesmen said the presidents enjoyed it.

"Periodically, over the last 2 ½ years, they've gotten together to discuss the unique honor and extraordinary opportunity to lead this country," said White House spokesman Josh Earnest and Clinton spokesman Matt McKenna. "They were pleased to have the chance to visit once again."

AP

President Barack Obama, right, plays golf with former President Bill Clinton at Andrews Air Force Base on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011, in Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

Like Obama, Clinton took up golf during his White House years and became a devoted weekend player.

Turkey: Boston museum returns top of Hercules

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—The Boston Museum of Fine Arts returned a piece of a Hercules statue to Turkey after two decades of negotiations, the country's prime minister said Sunday.

Turkey claimed the top of the Weary Heracles, Greek for Hercules, was stolen from an archaeological site in the Mediterranean and smuggled into the U.S. The bottom half of the statue has been displayed in Turkey.

Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he brought the top of the statue on his plane back home Sunday after the Boston art museum agreed to return it as a "goodwill gesture."

The 1,900-year-old marble statue shows the tired hero leaning on his club. It stands about five feet (1.5 meters) high.

The upper half was held jointly by the Museum of Fine Arts and husband-and-wife collectors Leon Levy and Shelby White of New York. The lower half is in the Antalya Museum in Turkey, along with photos of the Boston section and copies of articles about it from Turkish and American newspapers.

Turkish officials brought a cast of the bottom half to Boston in 1992 to show the pieces fit together. They said the top half of the statue was stolen in 1980 from an excavation site in Perge, northeast of the Mediterranean resort city of Antalya and 340 miles (550 kilometers) south of the capital, Ankara.

Paul McCartney, Beatle and ballet composer, too

NEW YORK (AP)—The world's great ballet houses are accustomed to cheers, shouts of "Bravo," even standing ovations. Rock star-groupie screams? Not so much.

But all bets are off when there's a Beatle in the house.

So there were genuine screams of adulation at New York City Ballet's fall gala Thursday, not just at the red-carpet arrivals, but also from some of the designer gown-clad patrons in the theater, who craned their necks to get a good view of the ballet's composer: Sir Paul himself.

Each season, City Ballet puts on a gala fundraiser, and the aim is always to create a little buzz—with a new work, or an interesting honoree. This year's gala, featuring McCartney's "Ocean's Kingdom," surely had more buzz than all past galas combined.

Adding to the usual mix of New York power couples and plain old dance fans (you could tell by the attire who was staying for the gala dinner) were actresses Naomi Watts, Liv Tyler and City Ballet regular Sarah Jessica Parker.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

NY OKs proposed wire walk over Niagara Falls

NIAGARA FALLS, New York (AP)—New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has signed on to daredevil Nik Wallenda's bid to walk a tightrope across Niagara Falls. Cuomo signed a bill Friday that would permit Wallenda to attempt a feat that would otherwise be illegal. Wallenda wants to walk over the falls between the U.S. and Canada on a wire 2 inches (5 centimeters) in diameter and about 1,800 feet (540 meters) long. It would be the first wire walk in more than a century. Canadian parks officials have yet to support the idea, though. The Buffalo News reports that Wallenda plans to wait until after upcoming elections in Canada to formally seek permission from the Niagara Parks Commission. The Ontario commission has denied such requests in the past. Wallenda is a seventh-generation member of the famed Flying Wallendas.

Lady Gaga shows at Obama fundraiser

ATHERTON, California (AP)—Pop singer Lady Gaga was among the guests at a Silicon Valley fundraiser for President Barack Obama. The intimate gathering was held under a tent in the yard of Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg on Sunday night. Gaga wore a black, sleeveless gown and high heels, and with her hair piled up she towered over the Silicon Valley elites who were paying up to $35,800 per couple to attend. Gaga attended as a paying guest. She said last week that she wanted to meet with Obama to discuss her concerns about bullying, but it wasn't clear whether the two would be having that discussion.

Kim Delaney escorted from Philadelphia podium

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Kim Delaney, star of the television show "Army Wives," had to be escorted from the podium at an event in Philadelphia after struggling to read her speech from a teleprompter. It happened Thursday at an event honoring former Defense Secretary Robert Gates. Delaney is a 52-year-old Philadelphia native. Her remarks were punctuated by long pauses and fragmented sentences. After several minutes, a video began to play. She was escorted away from the podium to a chair on the side of the stage by a woman who appeared to be a producer. Her publicist did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. The event Thursday at National Constitution Center was in honor of Gates. He received the 2011 Liberty Medal, a civic award, for his long public service career.

Readers reject aunt's demand that bashful niece talk to her

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I think your response to "Outgoing Aunt in Texas" (July 16) about the shy 12-year-old girl was misguided. The aunt felt "Tammy's" parents should "make" her come to the phone and speak to her. You felt the child's behavior was rude and said perhaps her mother was covering for her.

Being shy or overly sensitive is an inborn personality trait that can be very disturbing. Forcing a shy person to do something uncomfortable may make the problem worse. Talking on the phone is one of the hardest things for a shy person because he or she can't read the other person's face or body language.

Many 12-year-olds feel awkward in social situations, particularly if they are shy. A loving family member should try to be sensitive to this and not force the child to do something he or she is not comfortable doing. It's possible that Tammy may have a hard time talking to this aunt if she asks Tammy embarrassing questions or makes comments that are hurtful. If that's the case, then Tammy's mom is doing the right thing by trying to protect her.

SHY M.D. IN TENNESSEE

DEAR SHY M.D.: Thank you for offering another perspective. Readers who shared their experiences helped me to view this with a fresh perspective. My newspaper readers comment:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Twelve-year-old daughters have a terrible fear of criticism, a fear of failure and a fear of being made fun of by adults and peers. "Outgoing Aunt" sounds heavy-handed to me. I have to wonder what she might have said in the past (or how she said it) that has made Tammy so reluctant to even be in the same room with her. Tammy's mom is right to "cover for her."

I WAS THE SAME 12-YEAR-OLD

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: It bothered me that "Outgoing Aunt" was so determined and aggressive about speaking to Tammy. Has this aunt been unkind to her in the past? I think the aunt should back off and stop demanding to speak to the child through doors and on the phone. Perhaps the girl isn't shy or rude—just a great judge of character.

USED TO BE A SHY NIECE

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: You're correct in saying Tammy's behavior may be anxiety-based. There is a childhood anxiety disorder called Selective Mutism in which an expectation to speak can cause a child extreme panic. It results in temporary physical paralysis of the vocal cords, and can render a child unable to cry or communicate distress when severely injured.

These children can speak just fine in some situations but not in all others, which can be misunderstood as willful behavior. One of the most common situations in which a child cannot speak is with a close friend or relative.

I had SM as a child and I helped my son find successful treatment for it. Without treatment, Tammy is at a heightened risk for depression, panic attacks, agoraphobia, substance abuse and more. I now speak about this disorder to spread awareness and help others locate resources to seek treatment.

ANN SANDER IN HOUSTON

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am deeply in love with two wonderful women. I know I have to let one go, but I don't want to break either one's heart. Instead of "dumping" one of them, can I explain the situation to them and ask that one of them dump ME? I realize I could lose them both, but I'm willing to take the chance. Please help.

DOUBLE TROUBLE IN BLOOMINGTON, IND.

DEAR DOUBLE TROUBLE: I'll try, by courteously advising you to stiffen your spine and make a decision. If you announce to these two wonderful women that you can't choose between them, the odds are likely that they will both dump you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

THAT STUPID CALVIN. HE'S SO MEAN.
ALL I TRY TO DO IS BE FRIENDS, AND HE TREATS ME LIKE I'M NOBODY.
WELL, WHO NEEDS JERKS LIKE HIM ANYWAY? I DON'T NEED HIM FOR A FRIEND. I CAN HAVE FUN BY MYSELF!
POOP.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

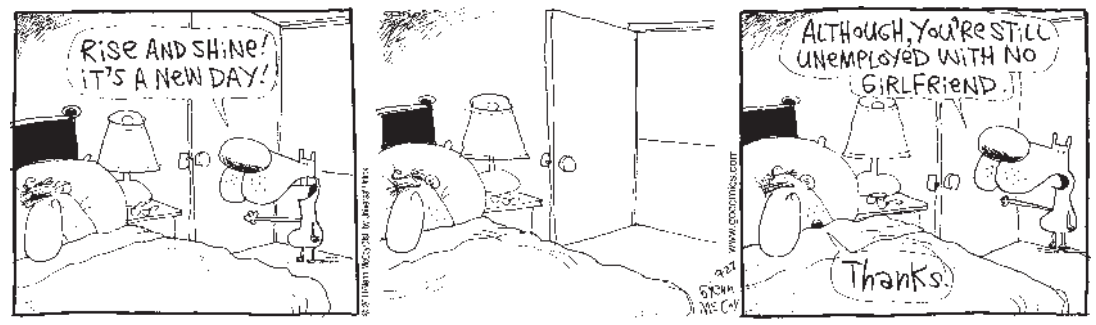
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THEY GAVE OUR CEO A MILLION-DOLLAR BONUS AND THEN LAID ME OFF.
HOW CAN A BANKRUPT COMPANY PAY EXECUTIVE BONUSES?
THAT'S WHAT I ASKED. AND THEN THEY CANNED ME.
THEY RUN THE COMPANY INTO THE GROUND AND THEN CELEBRATE WITH CASH FOR THEMSELVES.
HOW DO THESE PEOPLE GET THESE JOBS?
THEY START BY MEETING THE DEVIL DOWN IN GEORGIA WITHOUT A FIDDLE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

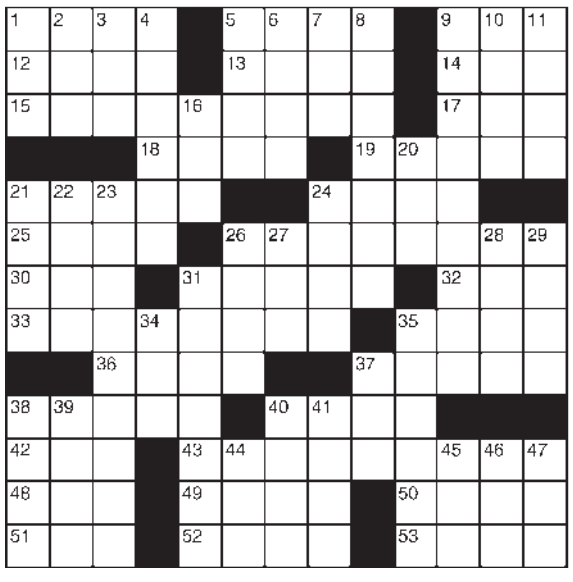
ACROSS
1 Sit and smile
5 Dandies
9 Cauldron
12 Windows alternative
13 Laugh-a-minute
14 Japanese sash
15 Stockholder's collection
17 Disencumber
18 Tatters
19 Stylishly dressed
21 Settle a loan
24 Opulent
25 Love deity
26 They have lots to sell
30 Melody
31 Hackneyed
32 Allow
33 Went back over one's steps
35 Waiter's handout
36 Charged bits
37 Range rover?
38 Eighth Greek letter
40 Shipbuilding wood
42 Rowing need
43 Characterization
48 Hearty quaff
49 Ms. Brockovich
50 Comical Carvey
51 Two, in Tijuana
52 Old portico
53 "Agreed"

DOWN
1 Little pooch
2 John's Yoko
3 Knightly address
4 Crowd-scene actors
5 Kermit, for one
6 Artworks
7 Luau bowlful
8 Without expression
9 Ship's windows
10 Last writes?
11 Neat
16 Wray of "King Kong"
20 Performance
21 Caboose's place
22 A Great Lake
23 Doorway curtains
24 McNally's partner
26 Mythical birds
27 Before
28 Nevada city
29 Dazzle
31 Appetizers
34 Decay
35 Japanese emperor of yore
37 Prohibit
38 5-Down's cousin
39 Head light?
40 Small combo
41 Sicilian volcano
44 Table scrap
45 Talk on and on
46 "Ugly Betty" actress Ortiz
47 Deposit

Solution time: 21 mins.

E	F	T	S	■	G	A	T	■	T	A	L	E
T	R	E	A	S	U	R	E	■	O	K	A	Y
C	O	L	D	C	A	S	E	■	M	I	C	E
■	■	■	D	O	M	■	I	H	A	N	K	S
S	M	E	L	T	■	P	O	E	T	■	■	■
P	A	C	E	■	H	O	T	R	O	D	S	■
A	S	H	■	C	E	D	A	R	■	R	A	P
■	H	O	T	M	A	I	L	■	B	A	K	E
■	■	■	S	O	D	A	■	L	A	Y	E	R
G	A	L	E	N	A	■	O	A	F	■	■	■
A	B	U	T	■	C	O	L	D	F	E	E	T
L	E	N	S	■	I	E	L	S	I	N	K	I
E	D	G	E	■	E	R	A	■	A	D	E	N

Yesterday's answer 9-27



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Avril Lavigne, 27; Gwyneth Paltrow, 39; Tamara Taylor, 41; Meat Loaf, 64.

Happy Birthday: Indecisiveness or inconsistency will be your downfall. Waffling and procrastinating will confuse the people you are dealing with, bringing everything you are trying to accomplish to a standstill. Express your desires openly and you will not only get valid suggestions, you'll get support and hands-on help as well. Your numbers are 4, 15, 22, 26, 31, 38, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Reevaluate your connections to others. If you are in an ineffective partnership, you may want to make changes or at least discuss them. Make decisions based on what works for you and you will quickly discover who is a keeper and who isn't. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Too much of anything will work against you. Concentrate on taking better care of your health and your relationships. Befriend people who share your interests and contribute to your life. Stop procrastinating. Move forward with your plans. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Socialize and participate to meet people who can contribute to your goals. When signing an agreement or entering a joint venture, don't lose sight of what you have to offer, or you will end up taking less than you deserve. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Sensitivity will lead to problems. Don't take what others say to heart. Concentrate on helping others and forget about any annoyances. It's time to put your own needs first and turn to entertaining pastimes that help eliminate frustration. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be the center of attention if you get together with friends, neighbors or anyone you might want to get to know better. A change of scenery will inspire you to make changes that will improve your life. Don't let someone's overindulgences cause trouble. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You may have to take a stroll down memory lane before you can move forward constructively. Mulling over your past, present and future goals will help you formulate a game plan that shows promise. Follow your dreams. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Emotional instability due to criticism or complaints will leave you in a vulnerable position. Don't let last-minute changes ruin your plans. Embrace those who are supportive, positive and share your goals and walk away from those who aren't. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Time is on your side. Double-check any information you've been given. You don't want to act on false pretenses. Once you've got all your facts straight you can move forward more aggressively. Don't share your intentions until they are underway. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Enjoy the moment. Your positive, outgoing attitude will help you move ahead personally and professionally. You'll get the backing you need, but don't overstep your bounds by promising something you cannot deliver. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Worry will get you nowhere. Don't let the doom and gloom of others deter you from moving ahead. Before taking action, sort out how to proceed with an idea you have been contemplating. Reassess your situation and put your plans into motion. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can get ahead if you concentrate on finances, settlements, agreements, contracts and anything else that could change your current situation. Stick to simple and moderate plans that will ensure slow but constant growth. Love looks promising. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Be careful what you sign up for. Taking on someone else's problems can lead to personal setbacks. Putting pressure on any situation will be met with equal resistance. Protect your assets or someone may try to take what rightfully belongs to you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have insight, sophistication and originality. You are creative, outspoken and charismatic.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5				6				
	1					2		
3					8		1	6
2		9					3	
8			1		5			2
	7					5		9
1	6		9					7
		8					4	
				5				3

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/27

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	4	3	9	6	5	2	1	8
9	5	1	8	7	2	6	4	3
8	2	6	1	4	3	5	9	7
2	9	7	5	3	8	4	6	1
1	3	4	7	9	6	8	2	5
6	8	5	2	1	4	7	3	9
5	7	9	6	2	1	3	8	4
3	1	2	4	8	7	9	5	6
4	6	8	3	5	9	1	7	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LOWERING BLOOD SUGAR — Solution: 9 letters

U	I	T	K	O	B	T	F	T	Ⓦ	E	S	A	V	E
N	N	E	R	A	R	E	U	O	C	Ⓞ	L	S	S	T
D	S	S	O	T	C	N	A	U	O	M	Ⓛ	I	O	A
E	U	T	W	M	A	T	T	N	O	D	C	Ⓢ	L	L
R	L	R	A	E	P	T	I	N	S	R	B	R	U	U
S	I	E	P	A	E	O	D	V	E	R	O	E	T	G
T	N	H	L	L	N	T	I	X	E	T	W	A	I	E
A	O	C	H	O	O	S	E	H	I	G	H	I	O	R
N	M	N	P	R	R	N	T	N	L	S	T	U	N	T
D	E	U	E	T	A	I	O	R	E	B	I	F	D	E
S	L	L	E	N	N	M	M	E	V	D	H	S	I	F
E	A	I	L	O	G	A	D	R	E	N	I	D	L	R
X	N	F	S	C	E	T	S	E	L	P	P	A	U	U
U	N	E	M	E	D	I	C	I	N	E	X	T	T	I
S	O	D	A	C	O	V	A	N	A	L	Y	Z	E	T

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Active, Almond, Analyze, Apples, Avocados, Beans, Choose, Control, Diet, Dilute, Diner, Exercise, Fiber, Fish, Flax, Food, Fruit, Herbs, High, Insulin, Lemon, Lettuce, Level, Life, Loss, Lunch, Medicine, Menu, Monitor, Nuts, Oatmeal, Onion, Orange, Peanut, Pear, Regulate, Relax, Role, Save, Seed, Sleep, Slow, Solution, Test, Understands, Unsweetened, Vitamins, Wine, Work

Yesterday's Answer: Protected

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Saipan Tribune

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1 - Licensed Dive Master, with 5 Years Experience • Minimum Salary. Send you resume to SMJ Corporation, P.O. Box 503944 Saipan MP 96950

4- Fisherman (Bottom / Trolling / Diving), at least 6 mos. experience required • Minimum Salary. Send you resume to SMJ Corporation, P.O. Box 503944 Saipan MP 96950

2- Sales Representative. 6 mos. experience in direct selling of fish required • Minimum Salary. Send you resume to SMJ Corporation, P.O. Box 503944 Saipan MP 96950

WHATZIT Solution: Goldilocks and the Three Bears

FOR RENT
2-br apartment in Garapan near church partly furnished - **$400/mo.**
3-br house in Garapan fenced with large yard - **$1000/mo.**
1 Small Garapan Commerical Space or Storage unit - **$400/mo.**
CALL 285-1487.

WANTED
Live-in Houseworker
Call 233-6267

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
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• 5-Liner	**$24**	**$39**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$24**	**$42**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$36**	**$57**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

Au E lock loch PANDA KOALA GRIZZLY

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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in this section

Ellsbury homers to save Boston's wild-card lead

NEW YORK (AP)—About eight hours after hitting two homers that didn't help their cause, Jacoby Ellsbury put the Red Sox in control of the wild-card race with another.

His two-out, three-run homer in the 14th inning of the nightcap of a split doubleheader lifted the Red Sox over the New York Yankees 7-4 Sunday.

The Red Sox rallied from a 3-0 deficit to snap a four-game skid and head into their final three games with a one-game lead over Tampa Bay.

Boston held a nine-game lead over the Rays entering play Sept. 4 but has gone 5-16 since then. Up by 1 1/2 games to start the day, the Red Sox nearly wasted that entire lead after losing the opener—which started at 1:11 p.m.—6-2 despite Ellsbury's two home runs. Combined with the Rays' 5-2 win over Toronto, the Red Sox went into the second game with a half-game lead.

"We just put ourselves in a good position, that's all we can do," Ellsbury said after the game that ended 11:43 p.m.

It made it a lot easier for Boston's rookies to wear lingerie and costumes for their trip to Baltimore.

Tampa Bay hosts the Yankees, who already have clinched the AL's best record and homefield advantage through the AL championship series.

"It was a BIG win, but we've got to go down tomorrow and play well," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said.

Ellsbury homered off Scott Proctor (0-2) after Darnell McDonald singled and Marco Scutaro walked.

In the opener, A.J. Burnett made his most impressive start in nearly three months and Jorge Posada hit a two-run homer for the Yankees. Ellsbury connected twice to become the first player in Red Sox history to reach 30 homers and 30 stolen bases in a season.

Desperate for a win in the second game, Francona used Jonathan Papelbon for a season-high 2 1-3 innings, bringing the closer in with the score tied on the road.

"We've got to grind and shine," Papelbon said. "That's what we've got to do from here on out."

AP

Boston Red Sox's Jacoby Ellsbury, right high-fives with Marco Scutaro after Ellsbury hit a three-run home run during the 14th inning of the second game of a baseball double-header against the New York Yankees, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Rays 5, Blue Jays 2

In St. Petersburg, Florida, B.J. Upton and Ben Zobrist homered in the first inning to back Wade Davis, (11-10) in Tampa Bay's win over Toronto.

Evan Longoria and Kelly Shoppach also homered for the Rays, who have closed the gap with Boston despite going 14-10 in September. Joel Peralta finished for his sixth save in eight chances.

Tampa Bay closes at home against the Yankees, while the Red Sox play at Baltimore.

Athletics 6, Angels 5

In Anaheim, California, rookie closer Jordan Walden (5-3) wasted a 5-2 lead in the ninth inning, throwing away a potential game-ending grounder in Oaklands's win over Los Angeles.

The defeat left the Angels 2 1-2 games behind Boston and two games back of Tampa Bay.

But Josh Willingham homered leading off the ninth and, after a pair of singles, Walden threw Adam Rosales' comebacker past shortstop Erick Aybar and into center. Kurt Suzuki followed with a tying double, and Coco Crisp's second sacrifice fly put the A's ahead.

Rangers 12, Mariners 5

In Arlington, Texas, Yorvit Torrealba homered in consecutive innings, including a grand slam, after Derek Holland (16-5) pitched his scheduled five innings in a postseason tuneup.

Adrian Beltre and Ian Kinsler also homered for the Rangers, who matched a franchise record with their 52nd win at home.

Texas stayed a game ahead of Detroit for the second-best record in the AL and homefield advantage in the first round. Charlie Furbush (4-10) was the loser.

Tigers 10, Orioles 6

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera homered and singled to raise his average to .341 in his push for the AL batting title, then left because of lightheadedness as Detroit downed Baltimore.

Brad Penny (11-11) allowed three runs and five hits in 5 1-3 innings for the win.

Brian Matusz (1-9) gave up six runs and seven hits in five innings. Assuming he doesn't pitch again this year, Matusz will finish with a 10.69 ERA, a record high for a pitcher with at least 40 innings in a season, according to STATS.

Twins 6, Indians 4

In Cleveland, Rene Tosoni led off the 10th inning with a home run off Tony Sipp (6-3) to give Kyle Waldrop (1-0) his first career win. Chris Parmelee added an RBI single later in the inning.

Cleveland had a four-game winning streak snapped. The crowd got a surprise in the ninth when 41-year-old Jim Thome made what could be his last appearance at Progressive Field—as a third baseman, a position he had not played since 1996.

Royals 2, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Luis Mendoza (2-0) allowed one run and five hits in 7 2-3 innings, Jarrod Dyson hit a two-run double and Kansas City sent Chicago to its 11th loss in 15 games, ensuring the third losing record for the White Sox in eight seasons under manager Ozzie Guillen.

Gavin Floyd (12-13) matched his season high with 10 strikeouts and held Kansas City to two runs and three hits in eight innings. Greg Holland struck four in his fourth save.

Cardinals 3, Cubs 2

In St. Louis, Rafael Furcal hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Chicago Cubs to pull within one game of Atlanta in the National League wild-card race.

St. Louis trailed the Braves by 10 1/2 games on Aug. 26, but the Cardinals have won 15 of their last 20.

The Cardinals close with a three-game series at Houston, which has the worst record in the major leagues, while Atlanta hosts Philadelphia, which has the best mark.

Trailing 2-1, St. Louis tied the score in the seventh on Yadier Molina's career-best 14th homer. The following inning, Furcal homered off Randy Wells (7-6).

Making what might have been his final home appearance for the Cardinals, Albert Pujols went 0 for 4—ending his streak of reaching base in 40 successive games. The three-time NL MVP, who is eligible for free agency after the season, received a 45-second standing ovation during his first at-bat. He stepped out of the batter's box and tipped his helmet.

Nationals 3, Braves 0

In Washington, the top four hitters in Atlanta's lineup, including Chipper Jones and Dan Uggla, went a combined 0 for 16 with five strikeouts in a loss to Washington.

The Braves have dropped 10 of their past 15 games.

Wilson Ramos homered off Atlanta starter Mike Minor (5-3) in the fourth, and Michael Morse hit the 29th of his breakout season—a two-run shot—off reliever Cristhian Martinez in the seventh.

Ross Detwiler (4-5) went six innings for Washington before a crowd of 37,638 in the final game of 2011 at Nationals Park. He allowed four hits while striking out four.

Phillies 9, Mets 4

In New York, Roy Halladay, Hunter Pence and the Philadelphia ended their eight-game losing streak, looking playoff-ready in every way by routing New York.

Playing their regular lineup for the first time since clinching the NL East, the Phillies posted their major league-leading 99th victory. Pence homered during a three-run first inning, each starter had a hit by the third and Carlos Ruiz's single made it 9-0 in the fourth.

Brewers 9, Marlins 5

In Milwaukee, Ryan Braun homered and raised his NL-best batting average to .333, lifting Milwaukee over Florida for its team-record 55th victory at home.

Every position player had a hit for the NL Central champions before the first out of the third as the Brewers swept the season series from the Marlins (7-0) for the first time since 1998.

Braun finished 2 for 3 before leaving after the fifth and leads Mets shortstop Jose Reyes (.331) for the batting title.

Diamondbacks 5, Giants 2

In Phoenix, Miguel Montero hit a two-run double to support Josh Collmenter's seven strong innings and Arizona beat San Francisco for a three-game sweep.

Aaron Hill and Colin Cowgill also had run-scoring hits for the Diamondbacks, who have won six of seven.

Justin Upton was hit on the front of the helmet by a pitch from Giants ace Tim Lincecum (13-14) in the first. He initially remained in the game and scored Arizona's second run, but left after the inning for precautionary reasons. Neurological tests on Upton were negative and he is day to day.

Carlos Beltran and Andres Torres homered in the sixth for the Giants, who have lost four straight.

Dodgers 6, Padres 2

In San Diego, Clayton Kershaw earned his 21st win, taking a two-hitter into the eighth inning to make his final case for the NL Cy Young pitching award as Los Angeles defeated San Diego.

Kershaw (21-5) tied Arizona's Ian Kennedy for the NL lead in wins and increased his league-leading strikeout total to 248 in his final start of the season. His NL-best ERA rose slightly to 2.28 as he extended his career-high winning streak to eight games.

Teammate Matt Kemp's pursuit of the NL Triple Crown had a major setback as he fell nine points behind in the batting race. Kemp, who started the day six points back, went 1 for 5 as his average fell to .324.

Rockies 19, Astros 3

In Houston, Colorado set a team record with 25 hits, Kevin Kouzmanoff and Chris Iannetta each drove in five runs and the Rockies routed Houston.

Jordan Pacheco, Ty Wigginton and Tommy Field had four hits each for the Rockies, who broke the previous team mark of 24, accomplished most recently in a 16-4 win at Pittsburgh on Aug. 2, 2003.

Kouzmanoff hit a pair of two-run homers. Colorado pitcher Kevin Millwood (4-3) also had a two-run shot, his second homer of the season and fourth of his big league career.

The 16-run margin of defeat tied the Houston record and the 19 runs allowed matched the second-most in franchise history, trailing only a 22-7 loss at the Chicago Cubs on June 3, 1987.

Reds 5, Pirates 4

In Pittsburgh, Dontrelle Willis allowed three hits in six innings and had a two-run double to pick up his first win of the season as Cincinnati beat Pittsburgh.

Willis (1-6) gave up three runs and struck out six to finally break through in his 13th and final start of the season. Francisco Cordero worked an eventful ninth for his 35th save.

Chase d'Arnaud hit a two-run triple but Pittsburgh couldn't complete a three-game sweep in its home finale at PNC Park.

Daniel Moskos (1-1) allowed three consecutive hits in the sixth, the last one a double to right by Willis.

Manning leads Giants over Eagles; Vick hurt

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Eli Manning threw four touchdown passes, including two to Victor Cruz, as the New York Giants beat the Philadelphia Eagles 29-16 after Michael Vick left the game again Sunday.

Vick started despite suffering a concussion in last week's 35-31 loss at Atlanta. He left with a broken right hand in the fourth quarter after helping the Eagles overcome a 14-0 first-quarter deficit to take a 16-14 lead.

It's uncertain how long Vick will be out.

Without their Pro Bowl quarterback, the Eagles (1-2) hardly look like the "Dream Team" that entered the season with Super Bowl or bust expectations.

Bills 34, Patriots 31

In Orchard Park, New York, Rian Lindell hit a 28-yard field goal as time expired as Buffalo snapped a 15-game losing streak against New England and lifted its record to 3-0.

Buffalo won in dramatic fashion, overcoming a 21-0 second-quarter deficit. It's the second straight week the Bills rallied; they overcame a 21-3 deficit in a 38-35 win over Oakland last week.

Ryan Fitzpatrick went 27 of 40 for 369 yards with two TDs as Buffalo beat its AFC East rival for the first time since the 2003 opener. It was the third-longest losing streak against one opponent in NFL history.

Tom Brady went 30 of 45 for 386 yards and four scores for New England (2-1).

Lions 26, Vikings 23, OT

In Minneapolis, Matthew Stafford threw for 378 yards and two touchdowns to rally Detroit Lions from a 20-0 halftime deficit, and Jason Hanson kicked a 32-yard field goal in overtime.

Calvin Johnson had seven catches for 108 yards and two TDs for the Lions—3-0 for the first time since 1980. They won in the Metrodome for the first time since 1997, snapping a 13-game skid.

Packers 27, Bears 17

In Chicago, Aaron Rodgers threw for 297 yards and three touchdowns to Jermichael Finley, as Green Bay shut down Jay Cutler.

The stakes weren't as high as the previous meeting, when the Packers left Soldier Field celebrating the NFC title on the way to the championship. Even so, they gave the Bears (1-2) more headaches.

Rodgers led the charge, completing 28 of 38 passes.

Buccaneers 16, Falcons 13

In Tampa, Florida, Josh Freeman scored the first rushing touchdown of his career and Tampa Bay's defense forced three turnovers and sacked Matt Ryan four times.

The normally unflappable Freeman did a little bird dance in celebration of his quarterback sneak that snapped a 3-3 tie in the second quarter, and the Bucs (2-1) went on to end a five-game losing streak in the series between NFC South rivals.

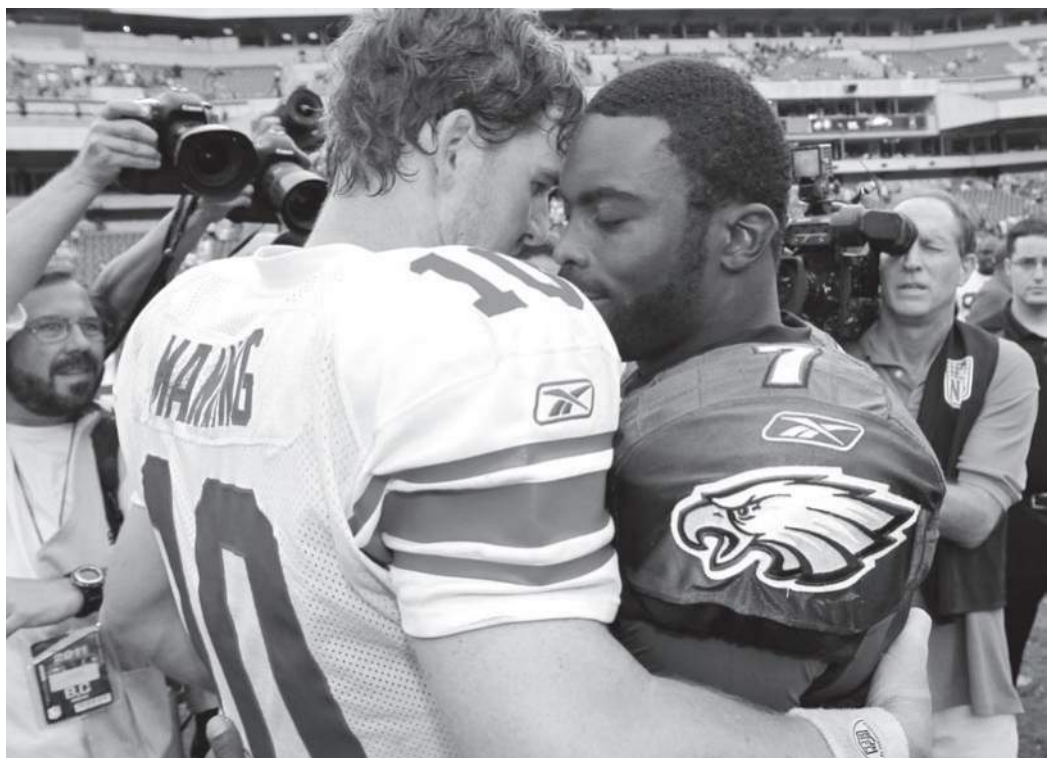
Saints 40, Texans 33

In New Orleans, Drew Brees passed for 370 yards and three touchdowns, and twice led New Orleans back from fourth-quarter deficits.

Mark Ingram's first career touchdown on a 13-yard run gave the Saints (2-1) the lead for good with under 3 minutes left.

Panthers 16, Jaguars 10

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Cam Newton didn't pass for too many of yards, he simply found Greg Olsen over the middle for a 16-yard touchdown with 4:20 left to list Carolina (1-2).



AP

New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning (10) and Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Michael Vick (7) embrace after their NFL football game on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011, in Philadelphia. The Giants won 29-16.

Newton, the No. 1 overall draft pick, also found Olsen for the ensuing 2-point conversion that helped Carolina rally from a 10-5 halftime deficit. The win also marked the first for coach Ron Rivera with the Panthers.

Titans 17, Broncos 14

In Nashville, Tennessee, Matt Hasselbeck threw a 4-yard touchdown pass to Daniel Graham with 4:24 left to completed Tennessee's rally.

The Titans (2-1) lost Kenny Britt, the AFC's leading receiver, when his right knee buckled in the second quarter. Hasselbeck turned to others, including Graham, whose first catch of the season came against his former team. Hasselbeck threw for 311 yards and two TDs.

Raiders 34, Jets 24

In Oakland, California, Darren McFadden ran for 171 yards and two touchdowns as Oakland bullied the two-time defending AFC runners-up on the ground to win their home opener.

Denarius Moore scored on a 23-yard reverse and Michael Bush added a 1-yard TD run 42 seconds later as the Raiders (2-1) took control in a dizzying span beginning late in the third quarter to hand the Jets (2-1) their first loss.

Chargers 20, Chiefs 17

In San Diego, Eric Weddle intercepted Matt Cassel at midfield with 55 seconds left to preserve San Diego's victory over winless Kansas City.

The Chiefs (0-3) got the ball back at its 33 with 1:26 left after Philip Rivers was stuffed on fourth-and-1 at the Chiefs 34.

Steelers 23, Colts 20

In Indianapolis, Shaun Suisham kicked a 38-yard field goal with 4 seconds left to lift Pittsburgh over Indianapolis.

It was a wild game that turned three times in the final 5 1/2 minutes and was far closer than most expected.

The Steelers (2-1) struggled as Ben Roethlisberger lost two fumbles and threw an interception during an 11-minute first-half span, and they rushed for only 67 yards.

Even when they thought they had finally shaken off the feisty Colts (0-3), they hadn't.

After James Harrison forced Curtis Painter's fumble and Troy Polamalu ran it 16 yards for a 20-13 lead with 5:13 left, Painter led Indy on an 80-yard drive. It was capped by Joseph Addai's tying 6-yard TD run with 2:09 to go. Addai ran 17 times for 86 yards.

Ravens 37, Rams 7

In St. Louis, rookie Torrey Smith's first three career catches went for touchdowns totaling 133 yards in the first quarter, sparking a franchise record-setting day on offense by Baltimore.

The Ravens (2-1) got back on their game and then some after stumbling in a loss at Tennessee last week. The 406-yard first half that fueled a 27-point cushion, and the game total of 553 yards, were both bests for the franchise that moved from Cleveland in 1996.

Browns 16, Dolphins 16

In Cleveland, Colt McCoy threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to Mohamed Massaquoi with 43 seconds left to cap an 80-yard drive and rally Cleveland (2-1) over winless Miami.

The loss surely will bring more heat on embattled Dolphins coach Tony Sparano.

49ers 13, Bengals 8

In Cincinnati, Kendall Hunter ran 7 yards for the game's only touchdown with 3:59 to go, rallying San Francisco in front of Cincinnati's smallest crowd for a home opener in 30 years.

Hunter's run completed the only noteworthy drive by the 49ers (2-1), who didn't cross midfield until midway through the third quarter.

Seahawks 13, Cardinals 10

In Seattle, Tarvaris Jackson scrambled for an 11-yard touchdown run early in the third quarter, bulling through two Arizona defenders at the goal line, and Seattle (1-2) picked up its first win.

Jackson's day had a little bit of everything, from fans booing, to later chants for his backup Charlie Whitehurst. But they were all cheering after he ran through Adrian Wilson and Kerry Rhodes to give the Seahawks the lead.

James, Melo, Paul fall short in Philly exhibition

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—LeBron James had the superstar teammates with him and the crowd against him.

September felt like June all over again, especially when another Big Three came up short.

James, Carmelo Anthony and Chris Paul couldn't lead their team back from a dreadful start, as Team Philly beat Melo's stars of Baltimore 131-122 on Sunday night at the Palestra.

Just like when the Miami team led by James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh was knocked off by Dallas in the NBA finals, the bigger names didn't click in time to get the victory many expected.

A sold-out crowd that greeted James with thunderous boos when he came onto the floor roared in the final minute when former Rookie of the Year Tyreke Evans used a series of fakes to drive into the lane for a basket that put it away at 131-119.

"Most of them are, it's not just the best players in the league, it's the best players in the world. And they're on the USA team, obviously guys get a lot of respect," Philly center Jason Thompson of Sacramento said.

"But at the end of the day, it's not like they're playing in a neutral place. You're playing in Philly and in all type of sports, basketball, football, baseball, anything, you know how Philly fans get."

With the NBA lockout now wiping out parts of the preseason and threatening to do more damage, Anthony helped put the game together along with his former Syracuse teammate, Hakim Warrick, and said there could be more.

"My mindset is I'll start next week. My body is trained, I'll start next week and that's where my mindset is at, that's where my body is at," Anthony said. "So games like this, it's fun. It's charity, but at the same time, we want to get something out of it."

And Warrick said for now, Philadelphia has the title of best team of the summer circuit.

"After beating that team, I mean we've got to be the champs," the Phoenix forward said. "We're taking on all challengers, but they've got to come through Philly. So whoever's next, they've come to through us."

James had 43 points and 23 rebounds, and Anthony had 31 and 17, but Paul wasn't in top shape in rare action during this NBA summer of inactivity. All three played all 48 minutes.

James and Paul left without speaking to reporters.

Former Villanova guard Kyle Lowry of the Rockets scored 34 points and Lou Williams of the hometown 76ers had 31 for Team Philly in what was called the "Battle of I-95." Evans finished with 18 points and 18 rebounds, and Warrick added 19 points and 12 boards.

Fourth quarters were the problem for James in the finals, but this time his team couldn't undo his start.

The passionate Philly fans booed James when he came onto the floor and even louder during pregame introductions, and they were delighted when the local team threatened to run the All-Stars off the floor in the opening minutes. With speedy guards Williams, Lowry and Evans repeatedly getting by their defenders, Team Philly raced to a 22-6 lead that it extended to 35-16 later in the first quarter.

James had only four points in the period.

Team Melo took the lead in the final period, but Lowry led a late flurry to pull it out for Philly.

The Melo team is based in Baltimore, but Anthony went outside his city to find James (Ohio) and Paul (North Carolina).

They were originally expected to have Kevin Durant, who's starred in a number of these games this summer from New York to Washington, and they could have used the reinforcements. The historic gym on Penn's campus wasn't air conditioned, and with only three substitutes, Melo's crew struggled to get up and down the floor at times.

But they got better as play went on—though the previously roaring crowd became increasingly quiet as it turned into a more half-court affair until James threw down Paul's lob pass from just inside center court to beat the halftime buzzer and cut Philly's lead to 66-58. But Philly, with a full roster, always was able to pull far enough ahead again.

Both teams warmed up in shirts reading "Basketball Never Stops"—but of course it has this summer in the NBA. The league announced Friday that training camps were postponed and all 43 preseason games scheduled for the week of Oct. 9-15 were canceled.

Representatives from the NBA and players' association hope to meet again this week but the window is tight, with the union holding a regional meeting Tuesday in Miami and some negotiators on both sides unavailable after that during the Jewish holiday, making it even tougher to agree to a deal in time to salvage any of the preseason.

So players are forced to find ways to stay in shape without knowing when they will need to be ready for sure.

People's champ teaches the 'Pacquiao Way'

By FRANK CIMATU
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BOXING

BAGUIO CITY—Meet Manny Pacquiao, the teacher.

During his morning workout at the track and field training grounds at Teachers' Camp here on Thursday, Sarangani Rep. Manny Pacquiao brought along fellow boxers and taught them boxing "the Pacquiao way."

"I shared with them my training and strategies to [help them] become faster," he said.

Pacquiao spent most of his time alternately sparring and running with unbeaten featherweight champion Lorenzo Villanueva.

Villanueva, the World Boxing Organization's Oriental featherweight titlist, had been taken in by Pacquiao's coach Freddie Roach for training at the Wild Card Boxing Gym in Hollywood, California.

Villanueva has a 21-0 record.

Pacquiao said he will be helping these boxers in their training sessions throughout his three-week stay here.

"I will train them slowly and in consonance with my own training… We have to train religiously. It will be more of the same training but [with a] different strategy," he said.

Mexican boxer Juan Manuel Marquez, whom Pacquiao will fight for the third time this November, is no push-over, said Buboy Fernandez, Pacquiao's friend and trainer.

"We need to prepare differently for Marquez," Fernandez said.

Pacquiao's usual training period for a fight takes two months but he has reportedly asked for two more weeks to prepare for his return bout with Marquez.

Pacquiao spent three hours training at the Teachers' Camp with Roach and strength and conditioning coach Alex Ariza.

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Meet Manny Pacquiao, the teacher.

HAAS

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finishing seventh in the FedEx Cup.

Haas won for the first time this year, and the payoff could be more than just a massive bank deposit. Fred Couples makes his final captain's pick on Tuesday for the Presidents Cup, and Haas put on quite a show.

"I did what I could do," Haas said.

Even if Couples wasn't watching, his assistant captain had a great view: Jay Haas, Bill's dad, was in the gallery at East Lake, and raised his arms as his 29-year-old son delivered the riveting conclusion.

"I'm proud of him the way he came back," Jay Haas said.

Only a week ago, Haas was poised to make the Presidents Cup on his own until a 42 on the back nine at Cog Hill. He was atop the leaderboard Saturday at East Lake until a bogey-double bogey finish.

And he almost let it get away from him again. Haas had a three-shot lead when he walked off the 15th green, only to make bogey from the trees on the 16th and bogey from the gallery on the 18th for a 2-under 68.

Mahan had to make par on the 232-yard closing hole. He hit a clutch chip—the biggest weakness in his game—and holed a 5-foot par putt for a 71 to join Haas in the high-stakes playoff.

They returned to the par-3 18th and the pressure was obvious with so much money at stake. Haas hit his shot well right, into the gallery for the third straight time, then hit a tough chip to 10 feet. Mahan went in the bunker and blasted out to 6 feet. Haas appeared to be down to his last shot, but holed the par putt to stay alive.

What followed was an amazing turnaround.

From the right bunker, his approach to the 17th on the second playoff hole tumbled down the hill and barely into the lake, the top half of the ball still showing. Mahan hit a pitching wedge to 15 feet, and must have thought the $11.44 million was his.

Mahan was in that same lake on Thursday when he removed his socks and shoes and played back to the fairway, so when he saw what Haas had done, he knew it wasn't over. He just didn't think—no one did, really—that Haas could hit such a spectacular shot.

"I thought I had won on the second playoff hole, and then he hits it out of the water to 2 feet," Mahan said. "So it seemed like he was destined to win this week."

Water splashed upward, and the ball settled 3 feet away. Mahan's birdie putt just missed on the high side of the cup.

Back to the 18th for the third time in less than an hour, Haas avoided the gallery this time and went left of the green. Mahan again found the bunker, only this time he blasted out some 15 feet by the hole and missed. Haas chipped to 3 feet and holed it for the biggest putt of his young career.

He calmly pumped his fist toward the green and let out a huge sigh.

"I'm very fortunate," Haas said. "This is pretty unbelievable."

Haas was at No. 25 in the FedEx Cup, making him the lowest seed to capture golf's biggest prize. He joins a distinguished list of FedEx Cup winners that includes Tiger Woods (twice), Vijay Singh and Jim Furyk.

This FedEx Cup took more math skills than usual, yet it turned out to be the most compelling.

In the final hour of the Tour Championship, eight players were still in the mix for the $10 million prize.

Webb Simpson, the top seed, closed with a 73 and finished alone in 22nd, making it possible for anyone who won the Tour Championship—except for Aaron Baddeley—to pass him.

Luke Donald, the No. 1 player in the world, made birdie on the 18th hole for a 69. He needed a three-way tie for second to capture the FedEx Cup, and could have done it had Mahan and Baddeley both made bogey on No. 18 in regulation. Both made par.

Donald wound up in a tie for third with K.J. Choi, who needed birdie on the 18th to get into the playoff. Choi shot 70.

Charles Howell III also needed a birdie to get into the playoff, but came up well left of the green on No. 18 and made bogey. Jason Day had a 30-foot birdie putt to join the playoff and gave it strong run. He missed a meaningless 4-footer coming back and made bogey.

It came down to Haas and Mahan, and an ending no one imagined. Haas hit two balls into the gallery, another into the lake, and still managed to win two trophies.

MP UNITED

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United 2 as early as in the opening frame when it led, 11-0.

Ryu Tanzawa led MP United 2's attack, scoring four goals, while Daniel Lim and David Kim chipped in three each. Ruszala also drew two goals from Bob Kim and one each from John Choi, Greg Sablan, Ryan Kim, Julian Pellegrino, and Ho Joon Lee.

In the second game, the defending champion MP United 1 picked up where it sister team left off, whipping Matansa.

Jehn Joyner scored back-to-back goals to start the match and then had another one in the latter part of the first half to lift MP United 1 to a 6-0 halftime lead. Ryota Ito, a new recruit for MP United 1, also made his presence felt in his debut, firing two goals, while Jake Lee had one goal in the first 45 minutes of the game.

In the second half, coach Norman del Rosario's wards continued to be aggressive on offense, drilling five more goals. Joyner connected on three more goals, Andrew Johnson contributed one, while Lee scored MP United 1's last goal with only six minutes left in the match.

Sean Perez gave Matansa its lone goal in the game.

Three matches were played in the opening of the fall league with Paire FC battling Tan Holdings FC in the third and last game of the day. Results of the match were unavailable at press time.

The boys U15 division has seven teams with Shirley's 2 drawing a bye in Week 1 of the league.

Earlier before the U15 games, the boys U18 division kicked off with Paire FC pulling off an upset over defending champion MP United, 3-2. Detailed information about the lone U18 tiff that was also played at the Oleai pitch was unavailable at press time.

Other age group competitions in the fall league—co-ed U6, U8, U10, and U12, and girls U15—also kicked off last Saturday at the various school fields on Saipan. However, results of the U6 to U12 age groups will not be compiled as these competitions are for development purposes only, while results of the girls U15 were unavailable at press time.

Tan Holdings was scheduled to duel Matansa in the first match at the San Antonio Elementary School Field, while MP United was set to collide with Paire in the second game.

CELL PRO

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showed up in the second quarter, but they still trailed, 31-42, at halftime. Sherwin Williams gunner Dado Vistal scored eight points in the second quarter.

Sherwin Williams buckled down after the break and rallied its way back to within a basket, 53-55, heading into the final canto. Jun Tabora led Sherwin Williams' comeback with eight markers.

Cell Pro's Rocycl Ritual nailed two clutch treys in the fourth quarter to help put his team on top come the final buzzer.

Shorthanded in the game, Sherwin Williams dressed seven players in the match and ran out of steam in the final period.

Cell Pro's Herrera stepped up big and led all scorers with 27 points, while Sherwin Williams' Tabora managed 20 in the loss.

Cell Pro's win forged a championship duel against early finalist MBI. The awards presentation will be held following the championship game.

Cell Pro 75 – Herrera 27, Ritual 17, Itaas 10, Hernandez 9, Tibayan 8, Rotap 4.

Sherwin Williams 71 – Tabora 20, Garon 14, Vistal 14, Tobias 12, Mallari 12, Dayrit 4, DL Guerrero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-7, 42-31, 55-53, 75-71. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

ZAPANTA

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down the 657 of IT&E's Ramir de Leon. Then in the high average, the older Zapanta posted 205.48 to lead the men's field and defeat Team 6's Raymond Angeles (180.40) and Richard Leong (179.83).

Raymond, who earned the league's best 11,096 pinfalls in 54 games, missed nailing his third win when he finished only second in the high series with handicap. He logged 734, 49 pinfalls behind the 783 of De Leon.

In the women's division, Team 6's Mel Regis notched three individual awards, including the most improved bowler plum. She took the MIP award against Lillian Gutierrez, ZAPS' Laarni Zapanta, and Python's Jannette Regaspi.

The men's MIP award went to Triple L Construction's Rene Dario, who prevailed over teammate Arnold Nillon, ZAP's Raymond Zapanta, and Tropex Garden, Co.'s Roy Reyes.

Besides the MIP plum, Regis also reigned supreme in the high game with handicap and high series scratch. She tallied 232 in the high game with handicap, beating Ambyth's Ron Cal and Regaspi, who both nailed 227. In the high series scratch, Regis posted 514 against the 498 of runner-up Gigi Zapanta of ZAPS.

After a second place finish in the high game with handicap, Cal redeemed herself in the high game scratch, earning 197 pinfalls to top Regis (192). Also joining the women's winner's circle was, Regaspi, who ruled the high series with handicap with her 658 pinfalls, 20 pinfalls ahead of the 638 of AON's Young Hwang.

Completing the list of top performers in the women's division was Gigi Zapanta, who took the high average honors with her 152.04. Zapanta had a close fight with Regis, who dropped to second with her 152 average, while Cal finished third with her 150.18. Gigi Zapanta totaled 7, 146 pinfalls in 47 games, Regis had 5,472 in 36 games, and Cal tallied 4,205 in 28 games.

The Top 2 placers in each category in the men's division went home with cash prizes, while only the winners in the women's category pocketed cash prizes. In the high average and MIP contests, only the first placers were given cash prizes.

Bowlers from 10 teams competed for the individual awards in the league that lasted for 18 weeks.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-New York	97	62	.610	–
Boston	89	70	.560	8
Tampa Bay	88	71	.553	9
Toronto	80	79	.503	17
Baltimore	67	92	.421	30

Central Division

x-Detroit	92	67	.579	–
Cleveland	80	79	.503	12
Chicago	77	82	.484	15
Kansas City	70	89	.440	22
Minnesota	61	98	.384	31

West Division

x-Texas	93	66	.585	–
Los Angeles	86	73	.541	7
Oakland	72	87	.453	21
Seattle	66	93	.415	27

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Philadelphia	99	60	.623	–
Atlanta	89	70	.560	10
Washington	78	80	.494	20 1/2
New York	76	83	.478	23
Florida	71	88	.447	28

Central Division

x-Milwaukee	94	65	.591	–
St. Louis	88	71	.553	6
Cincinnati	77	82	.484	17
Pittsburgh	71	88	.447	23
Chicago	70	89	.440	24
Houston	55	104	.346	39

West Division

x-Arizona	93	66	.585	–
San Francisco	84	75	.528	9
Los Angeles	80	78	.506	12 1/2
Colorado	72	87	.453	21
San Diego	69	90	.434	24

x-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

Washington 3, Atlanta 0
Cincinnati 5, Pittsburgh 4
Colorado 19, Houston 3
Milwaukee 9, Florida 5
Philadelphia 9, N.Y. Mets 4
St. Louis 3, Chicago Cubs 2
L.A. Dodgers 6, San Diego 2
Arizona 5, San Francisco 2
Detroit 10, Baltimore 6
N.Y. Yankees 6, Boston 2, 1st game
Minnesota 6, Cleveland 4, 10 innings
Tampa Bay 5, Toronto 2
Kansas City 2, Chicago White Sox 1
Texas 12, Seattle 5
Oakland 6, L.A. Angels 5
Boston 7, N.Y. Yankees 4, 14 innings, 2nd game

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	3	0	0	1.000	113	73
New England	2	1	0	.667	104	79
N.Y. Jets	2	1	0	.667	83	61
Miami	0	3	0	.000	53	78

South

Houston	2	1	0	.667	90	60
Tennessee	2	1	0	.667	57	43
Jacksonville	1	2	0	.333	29	62
Indianapolis	0	3	0	.000	46	84

North

Baltimore	2	1	0	.667	85	40
Cleveland	2	1	0	.667	61	62
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	.667	54	55
Cincinnati	1	2	0	.333	57	54

West

Oakland	2	1	0	.667	92	82
San Diego	2	1	0	.667	65	69
Denver	1	2	0	.333	58	62
Kansas City	0	3	0	.000	2	7
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NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Washington	2	0	0	1.000	50	35
N.Y. Giants	2	1	0	.667	71	60
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	51	51
Philadelphia	1	2	0	.333	78	77

South

Tampa Bay	2	1	0	.667	60	60
New Orleans	2	1	0	.667	104	88
Carolina	1	2	0	.333	60	68
Atlanta	1	2	0	.333	60	77

North

Green Bay	3	0	0	1.000	99	74
Detroit	3	0	0	1.000	101	46
Chicago	1	2	0	.333	60	69
Minnesota	0	3	0	.000	60	74

West

San Francisco	2	1	0	.667	70	52
Seattle	1	2	0	.333	30	67
Arizona	1	2	0	.333	59	56
St. Louis	0	3	0	.000	36	96

Yesterday's Games

New Orleans 40, Houston 33
Tennessee 17, Denver 14
Detroit 26, Minnesota 23, OT
San Francisco 13, Cincinnati 8
Buffalo 34, New England 31
N.Y. Giants 29, Philadelphia 16
Cleveland 17, Miami 16
Carolina 16, Jacksonville 10
San Diego 20, Kansas City 17
Oakland 34, N.Y. Jets 24
Baltimore 37, St. Louis 7
Seattle 13, Arizona 10
Green Bay 27, Chicago 17
Tampa Bay 16, Atlanta 13
Pittsburgh 23, Indianapolis 20

PGA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

ATLANTA (AP)—Scores Sunday from the $8-million PGA Tour Championship at the par-70, 7,319-yard East Lake Golf Club

FINAL ROUND

(x-won playoff on third hole)
x-Bill Haas (2,500), $1,440,000 68-67-69-68—272
Hunter Mahan (1,500), $864,000 67-68-66-71—272
K.J. Choi (767), $418,667 68-65-70-70—273
Luke Donald (767), $418,667 66-68-70-69—273
Aaron Baddeley (767), $418,667 68-69-64-72—273
Jason Day (458), $272,000 67-67-69-71—274
Charles Howell III (458), $272,000 67-71-68-68—274
Adam Scott (458), $272,000 67-65-74-68—274
Bo Van Pelt (400), $240,000 71-70-66-68—275
Phil Mickelson (375), $227,200 68-70-67-71—276
Keegan Bradley (338), $210,400 64-71-72-70—277
Geoff Ogilvy (338), $210,400 69-68-72-68—277
Jason Dufner (293), $190,400 66-70-73-69—278
Gary Woodland (293), $190,400 72-68-72-66—278
Steve Stricker (280), $176,000 68-70-69-72—279
Fredrik Jacobson (268), $162,400 70-67-68-75—280
Vijay Singh (268), $162,400 74-67-70-69—280
Brandt Snedeker (268), $162,400 68-69-74-69—280
David Toms (268), $162,400 73-65-73-69—280
Matt Kuchar (253), $152,000 67-70-71-73—281
Justin Rose (253), $152,000 69-75-70-67—281
Webb Simpson (245), $147,200 69-70-70-73—282
Dustin Johnson (238), $142,400 70-73-70-70—283
Bubba Watson (238), $142,400 71-64-79-69—283
John Senden (230), $137,600 73-71-69-71—284
Chez Reavie (220), $132,800 66-77-68-74—285
Nick Watney (220), $132,800 72-67-72-74—285
Mark Wilson (220), $132,800 72-70-74-69—285
Y.E. Yang (210), $129,600 72-70-75-72—289
Jonathan Byrd (205), $128,000 70-74-73-75—292

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsal League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Thundercats' Timothy Tawanpiy, right, beats a Mellow Yellow striker for the ball during their game in the first round of the 2011 Saipan Soccer School Futsa League at the TSL Sports Complex.

Red Inter's Peter Houk, right, and Korean Futsal's Dae Won Jeon hustle for the ball.

A Korean Futsal defender tries to kick out the ball after a shot from a Red Inter player.

Kulet's Team's Vanessa Pritchard, left, dribbles against a Mellow Yellow defender.

A Docomo striker stops the ball during their game against IT&E.

IT&E Awesome's Connie Camacho, left tries to save the ball while Red Team's Roxie Lamar, right, defends her.

Red Team's Patty Coleman makes a pass during their game against Shirley' B.

Korean Futsal's Dae Min Jeon looks for a teammate to pass the ball to.

Go Green and Mellow Yellow players fight for the ball.

A Kulet Team striker, center, battles for possession against two Mellow Yellow defenders.

Manning leads Giants over Eagles; Vick hurt

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Ellsbury homers to save Boston's wild-card lead

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Haas wins high-stakes FedEx Cup

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP SPORTS WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—Bill Haas had a sinking feeling when he heard the gallery groan, the first indication that his shot had tumbled down the slope and into the lake. When he saw the ball only half-submerged in water, Haas figured he still had the slightest chance.

FedExCup

To somehow save par.

Against all odds, to stay alive in his sudden-death playoff with Hunter Mahan at the Tour Championship, the richest playoff in golf history with FedEx Cup and its $10 million bonus riding on the outcome.

"It was an all or nothing shot," Haas said. "So if I don't pull it off, I'm shaking Hunter's hand."

As he did through the final, frenzied hour at East Lake on Sunday, it worked to near perfection. Haas splashed the ball out onto the green to 3 feet for par, then won the Tour Championship—and the FedEx Cup—on the third extra playoff hole.

In the five-year history of this FedEx Cup, no finish was more compelling.

A handful of players had a shot at the $10 million with an hour left in the tournament until it came down to two—Haas and Mahan, in a sudden-death playoff with such high stakes that the difference between winning and losing was nearly $10 million.

Haas wound up winning a combined $11.44 million, including $10 million for capturing the FedEx Cup. Mahan, who failed to save par from a bunker on the third extra hole, had to settle for $864,000 as the runner-up and $700,000 for

See HAAS on Page 26

AP

Bill Haas hoists the FedEx Cup from a stage overlooking the 18th green after winning the Tour Championship, the trophy for which is in his left hand, at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2011.

Zapanta brothers dominate individual awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Zapanta siblings—Raphael and Raymond—led the individual top performers in the Philippine Bowling Association-Capitol Bowling Center's 29th Friday Night League.

Raphael took the high game scratch and high game with handicap, while Raymond prevailed in the high series scratch and high average divisions.

Raymond

Raphael

The younger Zapanta recorded 278 pinfalls in the high game scratch to beat Team 6's Mario Mayuga, who settled for second with his 269.

In the high game handicap, Raphael carded 302 pinfalls to edge Mayuga anew, as the latter scored only 295.

In the high series scratch, Raymond collected 722 pinfalls to

See ZAPANTA on Page 26

Cell Pro enters finals opposite MBI

Cell Pro secured the second finals berth in the 2011 Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League after beating Sherwin Williams, 75-71, last Friday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The team made a statement after the tip and jumped out to a daunting 19-point lead, 26-7, after the opening 10 minutes. Roger Herrera spearheaded the surge with nine points.

Sherwin Williams' offense

See CELL PRO on Page 26

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Cell Pro's Roy Hernandez goes strong to the basket in Friday's Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League semifinal playoff game against Sherwin Williams at the Garapan Basketball Court.

MP United sweeps opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United 1 and Matansa FC players exchange hi-fives after their game in the boys U15 division of the NMIFA fall league last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association

MP United Football Club got off to a rousing start, as its two teams demolished their respective foes in the boys U15 division of the 2011 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last Saturday.

In the curtain-raiser, MP United 2 shut out Shirley's FC 1, 17-0, while MP United 1 crushed Matansa FC in the second match in the opening day of the fall league, 11-1.

MP United U, which is composed of the club's new recruits and its players who already graduated in the U12 league, gave debuting coach Brad Ruszala a big win at the start of the competition.

The first game of the season was already in the bag for MP

See MP UNITED on Page 26